

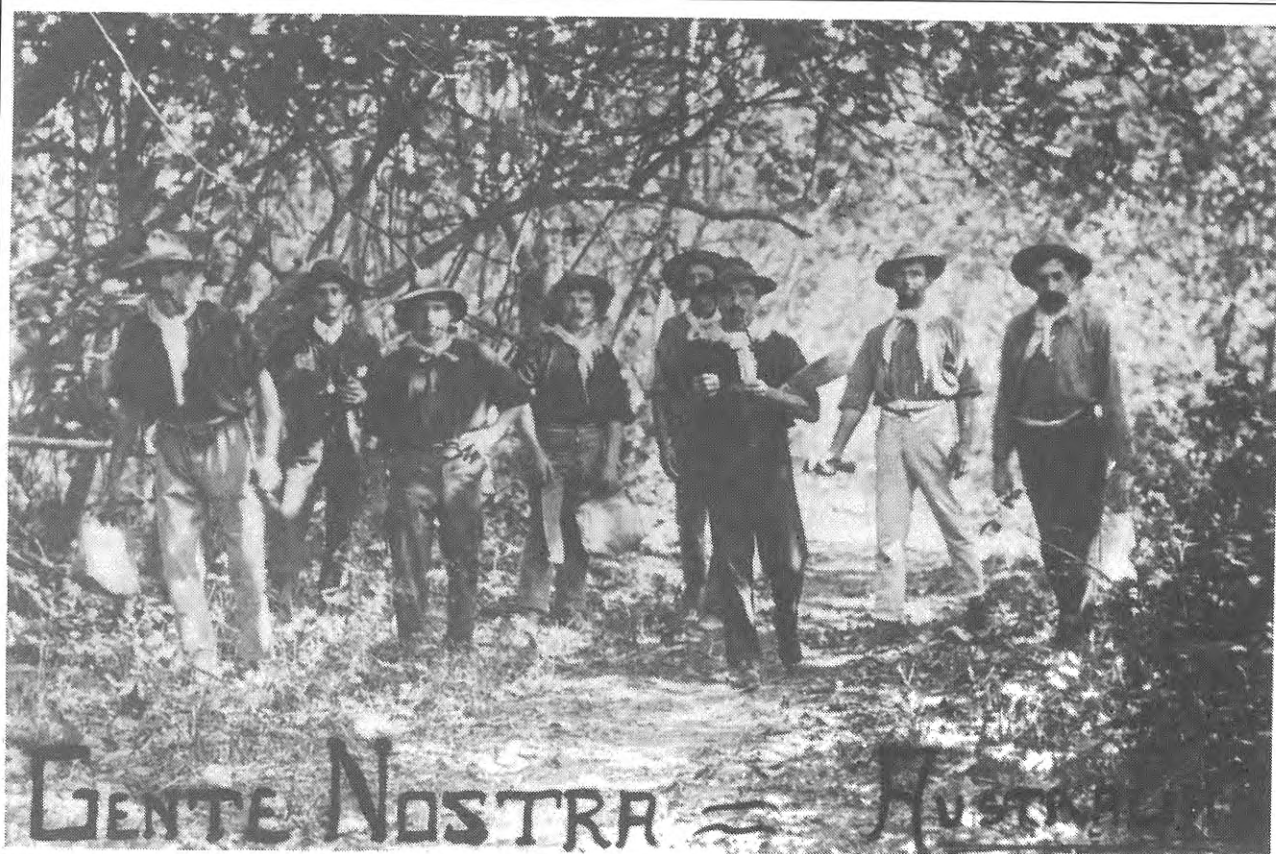


ITALIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

JOURNAL

January - June 1996

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The Editorial Sub-committee for this edition was:

Doug Campbell, Joan Campbell, Mark Donato, Clare Gervasoni, Rosario Lampugnani, Laura Mecca, Ilma Martinuzzi O'Brien, Tony Pagliaro.

The *Journal* aims to provide, to those interested in the history of Australian-Italian communities, an outlet for the circulation of news and reports, the exchange of information and the notification of future activities. We invite readers to contribute newsworthy articles and short notes. Guidelines for contributors are included.

The views expressed in the *Journal* are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the Italian Historical Society. The illustrations not sourced are from the Italian Historical Society Collection.

The *Journal* is published twice a year. Subscription is \$10.00 annually which entitles you to membership to the Italian Historical Society and membership to the parent body Co.As.It., of which the IHS is part. Please send subscriptions to:

Italian Historical Society-Co.As.It.
185 Faraday Street, Carlton 3053.
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FRONT COVER: *An Italian cane cutting gang on its way to work at Morley's Farm, Macknade, North Queensland in 1917. Enrico Guandalini, marked with a cross, migrated to Australia from Ostiglia, Mantova in 1906.*

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1st Floor, 185 Faraday Street,
Carlton, Vic., 3053.**

Access to the Society's Collection of photographs, documents, oral histories, the Italian Diplomatic Archives and the Santospirito material is subject to a written application and by appointment only. Access and research fees may apply. For further enquiries contact the Society's Manager on (03) 9349 1144 - Fax. (03) 9347 0001.

The Society's Library is open Monday to Friday from 10.00am to 4.00pm. Access is free. The books are not for loan. Restrictions apply to the photocopying of library books. For enquiries contact the Society on the above number.

Enquiries on the history of Italian immigration to Australia from Primary and Secondary students up to Year 11, should be addressed to the Italian Resource Centre, Ground Fl. 185 Faraday Street, Carlton, Monday to Friday from 9.30am to 4.30pm, Telephone (03) 9349 1144.

Enquiries from VCE Italian language students should be addressed to the Italian Resource Centre on (03) 9349 1144. Australian History and Australian Studies VCE Students should address their enquiries to the Society.

For information on Family History, contact the Society on (03) 9349 1063.

Photocopying facilities are available at the Society with a charge of 20c per copy.

REPORT

by Gaspare Sirianni

Chairman of the Italian Historical Society and Vice-President of CO.AS.IT.

In the March 1995 issue of the *Journal* (Vol 3:1) I apologized to *Journal* subscribers for the delay in publishing the IHS *Journal*. I stated that three *Journals* would be published in 1995 to compensate for failing to publish the last 1994 issue. Due to circumstances beyond the Society's control, it was not possible to publish the December 1995 issue as promised.

There has been a significant change which I need to report. In order to clear a backlog of uncatalogued material, it has been decided to make a concerted effort to update and computerize the IHS records. Laura Mecca, who has been with the Society since 1986 has been assigned to this task. I am also pleased to announce the appointment of Maria Tence as Manager of the Society. Maria was the Society's first paid Co-ordinator and was responsible for the Society's early collections of photographs, manuscripts and oral histories. Maria resigned in 1986 but continued to be involved in a voluntary capacity, serving as a Committee member from that time and assisting with special projects. For the past six years Maria has been employed by Swinburne University, during which time she also undertook a Master in Applied Science (Museum Studies) which was completed in March 1996.

I would like to appeal to our subscribers for articles of interest which may be considered for publication in the *Journal*. As the Society's *Journal* is received by libraries and individuals Australia-wide, articles relating to interesting or noteworthy aspects of Italian migration and settlement in Australia and profiles of Italians who have contributed to all facets of community life are of value to our readers. There is also an increasing demand for community-based information from students as a result of the VCE curriculum. The Society always welcomes articles or abstracts of family history research for inclusion in the Family History Section. This Section generates much interest amongst readers who are interested tracing their own ancestry and often serves to provide them with vital missing gaps or leads in their research -it has even assisted in reuniting distant family members. Prospective contributors to the *Journal* are referred to the Guidelines printed on the back cover of each issue.

On behalf of the Society staff and Committee I wish to thank members and subscribers for your continuing support, interest and contributions.

PATRIMONY ON PARADE

The Collection, Preservation and Exhibition of the Italo-Australian Documentary Heritage at the State Library of New South Wales

by Jim Andrighetti

Jim Andrighetti is a manuscript librarian in the Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales. He is Co-ordinator of The Italians in NSW Project and was Curator of the exhibition La Dolce Vita? Italian-Australians of NSW.

On the eve of World War II, Father Giuseppe La Rosa, an Italian priest and the founder of *La Fiamma*, arrived in Sydney, newly ordained from Rome. Although La Rosa spent only a decade on Australian soil, he left a bountiful legacy for Italian-Australians. Until now his achievements have been largely unacknowledged, reduced to a footnote in Italo-Australian historiography and omitted from the canon of the Australian Catholic experience.¹ The State Library of New South Wales was granted access to the personal papers of Father La Rosa, previously held in private hands, for an exhibition which has elevated this remarkable prelate from relative obscurity to the purview of Australian history.

From March to July 1995, the State Library of NSW presented the exhibition, *La Dolce Vita?: Italian-Australians of NSW*, a milestone in the library's public programs. The first major exhibition on the twentieth-century Italian presence in NSW, it illuminated aspects of the bittersweet lives of ordinary and extraordinary Italians eclipsed by the historical record. One astute reviewer doubtlessly had La Rosa in mind when he referred to the small epiphanies awaiting visitors to the exhibition.² *La Dolce Vita?* drew largely on the nascent archive on Italian migration to NSW at the State Library. Since the inception in 1989 of The Italians in New South Wales Project, a joint venture of the Library and the Italian Historical Society (NSW), which operates under the auspices of Co.As.It., the Italo-Australian documentary heritage of NSW has been assiduously collected and preserved in the Library for future researchers.

When war broke out, Father La Rosa was working on the staff of the Apostolic Delegate, The Vatican's representative in Sydney.³ He was chiefly responsible for monitoring Vatican Radio,

transmitting messages from Italian families to their loved ones in Australia.



Father Giuseppe La Rosa, c.1947. Courtesy of Domenico La Rosa.

In 1942 Archbishop Gilroy appointed La Rosa Chaplain of the Italian community. He compiled a pocket-size prayer book, *L'amico del prigioniero* (The Prisoner's Friend) (1943), for distribution among the faithful who were interned. Thousands derived solace from this compendium, among them La Rosa's father and brothers behind the wire. His family had migrated from Calabria to Australia between the wars.

In the early years of the Cold War Father La Rosa was in the vanguard against anti-religious forces. In 1945 he formed the San Francesco Catholic Italian Association to propagate a richer Christian lifestyle among the laity. He was also an organiser of the Catholic sponsored aid committee, Relief to Italy from Australia, which assisted the war victims of Italy. In the mid-1940s La Rosa proposed the idea for an Italian Catholic newspaper to counter the influence of *Il Risveglio*, organ of the secular Italia Libera Movement. Originally to be titled *L'Apostolo* (The Apostle), the newspaper began publication as *La Fiamma* in 1947. He edited early issues of the paper before editorial responsibilities were assumed by the Capuchin Franciscan Friars at Leichhardt, under the direction of Father Anastasio Paoletti.

Returning to Italy in 1959, La Rosa embarked on a distinguished career in the Vatican. In 1973 he visited Melbourne as a member of the Papal Legation for the 42nd International Eucharistic Congress. On his retirement in 1985, La Rosa was appointed Supranumerary Protonotary Apostolic.

The State Library of NSW has always collected material such as correspondence, diaries, photographs and pictures recording the participation of people from non-English-speaking backgrounds in the history of NSW. The historical record of the Anglo-Celtic majority of the population has, however, overshadowed that of the ethnic minorities in what historian Gianfranco Cresciani has described as *l'egemonia della storiografia* [the hegemony of historiography].⁴ A consequence of such exiguous sources has been the marginalisation of various groups from the recounting of Australian history. During the 1980s the Library made a concerted effort to redress this imbalance in its collections and to reflect more adequately the State's cultural diversity.⁵ The salutary lessons learnt from this proved invaluable in consolidating the Library's partnership with the Italian Historical Society (NSW).

The identification of Father La Rosa's papers as a significant collection of Italo-Australian documentary heritage worth preserving in the State Library could not have been achieved so quickly without the Society's connections. When La Rosa died in 1990, his personal papers passed into the custody of his brother, Domenico. In 1993 I was introduced to Domenico La Rosa by his longtime friend, legal associate (both men

were solicitors) and President of the Italian Historical Society, Peter Tesoriero. Through him I developed an appreciation for the significance of Father La Rosa's contribution to his compatriots in Australia.

Later I approached Domenico for access to his brother's papers, specifically for my research towards *La Dolce Vita?* and ultimately for their preservation microfilming by the Library. At the time Domenico had been compiling a tribute to his brother, incorporating Father Giuseppe's memoir, *Dieci anni tra gli Italiani in Australia, 1939-1949* (1988), currently in press. Having just read Ian Hamilton's *Keepers of the Flame: Literary Estates and the Rise of Biography* (1992), I was slightly more sensitive than usual to the possible caveats imposed by families on the use of papers in their keeping. My concern proved unwarranted; Domenico gave me unstinting assistance and freely placed his brother's papers at my disposal. The papers are shortly to be copied for the Library's collections.

The State Library accepted an invitation from the Italian Historical Society to preserve jointly the State's Italian documentary heritage. The genesis of this venture owes much to the indefatigable efforts of the Society's inaugural President, Father Adrian Pittarello. A Scalabrinian priest and Director of the Migration Studies Centre, Pittarello has published widely on Italian Catholic migrants in Australia. The NSW Project is modelled on the partnership between the State Library of Victoria (SLV) and the Italian Historical Society of Victoria (IHSV), established in 1983, the first of its kind in Australia to link successfully a mainstream collecting institution and an Italian community organisation.

While the NSW Project has sought to emulate the success of its southern counterpart, some fundamental distinctions can be drawn between the two. The SLV has received more accessions, largely the result of the greater emphasis on copying records such as correspondence and particularly photographs, donors preferring to lend originals. The IHSV as the proactive partner has been directly responsible for significantly augmenting the SLV's holdings of Italo-Australian documentary materials. Stringent economies of scale in recent years have, however, restricted the SLV's input to the venture. Despite this, the IHSV has pursued its co-operative collecting commitments, spurred on by an impressive exhibitions program. Unlike

the IHS (NSW) it retains its own collection, now burgeoning, including duplicate material awaiting transfer to the SLV. The administrative resources of the IHSV are considerable compared with the IHS (NS) where one part-time field officer has been employed for short terms, funded by the Australian Multicultural Foundation and the Ethnic Affairs Commission of NSW. The fact that the IHSV has attracted the largesse of various funding bodies and prominent Italian benefactors can be largely attributed to the quality of the project it has undertaken and to the status and influence of its chairman for twelve years, Sir James Gobbo. Unfortunately, Sydney's Italian community has no equivalent advocate; a salient factor when the corporate sponsorship represented approximately half the total budget for *La Dolce Vita*?

Furthermore, the State Library of NSW, unlike the State Library of Victoria, has assumed the leadership role in the NSW Project and has acquired substantial collections of personal papers and organisational records, unrivalled in Melbourne. The largest collection is the papers of former radio broadcasting couple, Mamma Lena and Dino Gustin. Other voluminous accessions are the records of FILEF (NSW Branch), the Dante Alighieri Society (Wollongong Branch), the San Francesco Catholic Italian



Mamma Lena Gustin at 2CH with her husband and program producer Dino (standing), and English-language announcer Friel Smith, c.1963. Photo: Brian Bird.

Association, the Italia Libera: Australian-Italian Anti-Fascist Movement (NSW Committee) and the National Italian-Australian Women's Association (NSW Branch). Some major personal collections include the papers of journalist and broadcaster, Pino Bosi; the former State parliamentarian, George Paciullo and the celebrated artist, Antonio Dattilo Rubbo.

It became apparent early in the life of the NSW Project that without full-time staff on the IHS (NSW) much of the collecting impetus would fall to the Library. In the past two years, however, the important field work carried out by the Society's Louise Bayutti has identified materials for likely deposit in the Library. The State Library acts independently and on advice from the Society in making approaches to individuals and organisations. As Co-ordinator of the Project at the State Library, I am responsible for the final appraisal, acquisition and cataloguing of Italo-Australian records, and any related reference and copyright enquiries. The archival principles of provenance and original order are observed in arrangement and description of these records.

The State Library's commitment to improving access to the Italo-Australian documentary heritage in its collections has been assisted by generous funding from the Australian Multicultural Foundation. This funding enabled the library to employ for a short term an additional archivist to assist with the cataloguing of incoming English-language collections. Apart from the Library's production of aids for researchers, brief collection entries are regularly submitted for publication to the National Library of Australia's *Guide to Collections of Manuscripts Relating to Australia*.

The recently published *Italians in NSW: A Guide to Archives in the Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales* lists the majority of private archives collected by the Italians in the NSW Project.⁶ The *Guide* covers mainly records of the twentieth century. The sketchbooks of the influential portrait painter Giulio Anivitti, in Sydney in the 1870s are the outstanding feature of the small amount of material relating to last century. Personal papers of individuals from all walks of life predominate in the *Guide*. As well, the records of various associations reflect their social, cultural, religious and political agendas. A range of commercial activities is glimpsed, but business records are still under-represented in the Project.

The *Guide* is arranged alphabetically by the name of the creator of each collection whether it be a person, family, business or association. Each entry provides a succinct description of contents and information on date range, call number, language, format, quantity, access conditions, source and date of receipt. A biographical note appears where warranted. A detailed contents list is included to amplify voluminous or complex collections, such as the Gustin papers. An index by Italian region to the birthplaces of creators of collections is followed by a comprehensive index to names and subjects which concludes the *Guide*.

Since the advent of The Italians in NSW Project, the State Library's holdings of Italian-language printed material have slowly increased. Periodicals and ephemeral items, such as leaflets and posters produced by the plethora of Italian clubs and associations, are the most vulnerable printed material to slip through the bibliographic net. The Project strives to raise awareness among publishers of their obligation to forward to the Library for permanent record one copy of each of their publications.

An important periodical acquisition this year has been a complete set of *Il Canguro*, quarterly of the National Association of Emigrants and Ex-Migrants of Australia (ANEA), established in 1976 in Padua. Lent to the Library for microfilming by Aldo Lorigiola, co-founder and President of ANEA, this publication provides a unique window through which to view the return migration phenomenon.⁷ Lorigiola was a Scalabrinian priest from New York when he arrived in Unanderra, Wollongong, in 1955. The nearby Port Kembla steel works had absorbed thousands of his Italian parishioners. Insights into Lorigiola's role in the incipient Immaculate Conception Parish, Unanderra, established by the Scalabrinian Order, can be gleaned from the papers of leading laymen, Stan Williams, lent for copying by his widow in 1992.



ULTIMO ATTO

Ora che l'accordo Australia-Italia è diventato fatto, la storia di questa vicenda si può dire che si è conclusa. Ma non è tutto. La storia di questa vicenda si può dire che si è conclusa. Ma non è tutto. La storia di questa vicenda si può dire che si è conclusa. Ma non è tutto.

Il sen. Fiumi ha voluto sottolineare la grande rilevanza dell'accordo, che tuttavia non è solo un accordo di natura sociale, ma è anche un accordo di natura politica. L'ANEA non riacquiesce a questa conclusione, ma la vede come un punto di partenza per una serie di iniziative che si svolgeranno nella pratica, dopo un primo periodo di...

Accordo Italia-Venezuela

La decisione della visita ufficiale in Italia del presidente venezuelano Jaime Lusinchi è stata firmata l'accordo di sicurezza sociale tra Italia e Venezuela. L'accordo, in sostanza, ha impegnato a Jerez, in Spagna, il ministro degli Esteri, Antonio Di Pietro, e il ministro degli Esteri venezuelano, Germán Carrero...

Original material of non-Italian provenance, such as the Williams papers above, highlights the rich and complementary nature of the State Library's collections. Research For *La Dolce Vita?* revealed elucidating sources scarcely analysed in the past for documenting Italo-Australian history. The evocative photograph of the Sydney Fascist Party in the 1930's, reproduced here, is one example. It was taken by Sydney commercial and newspaper photographer Sam Hood. In 1973 the State Library acquired his collection of 33,000 negatives, which were copied onto more stable media and then onto video disc. The full spectrum of society from the Depression years to the fabulous Fifties was now available at the press of a button. In 1991 the Library's curator of photographs, Alan Davies, selected the following photograph in an exhibition of Hood's work and in the accompanying publication, *Sydney's Exposures: Through the Eyes of Sam Hood and his Studio, 1925-1950* (1991). The photograph drummed up as much speculation as fact. Owing to the presence in the photograph of the Italian Consul general, Marquis Agostino Ferrante, the date range narrowed from 1932 to 1934. Where and when it was taken remained unconfirmed until midway through *La Dolce Vita?*

Founded in 1927, the Sydney *Fascio* had become well drilled in the public relations battle with Italian-Australian anti-Fascists. Under the watchful eye of zealous consular officials, the party sought to capture the loyalty of Italian migrants to Mussolini's regime. Public displays of allegiance, conveying order and discipline, focused on the emblematic black shirts and trappings of the *fascisti*. The young boy in the photograph is kitted out in the uniform of the *Balilla*, the Fascist youth organisation, symbolising the pervasive influence of Fascism. Standing behind him is Consul General Ferrante. On the balcony are members of the women's *Fascio*, with its founding secretary and later to become the doyenne of Sydney's Italian community, Caterina Stassi (second from the left).

Further details about the photograph have since come to light. With the solicited assistance of exhibition-goers, more names and faces have been matched. One excited visitor identified her late husband in the shot. She even produced another photograph of the same group taken on the same day by Sam Hood.⁸ On the back of her photograph is Hood's stamp and an inscription in



The Sydney Fascist Party assembled to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the March on Rome, Sydney, 1932. Photo: Sam Hood.

Italian citing the occasion as the celebration of the tenth anniversary of the March on Rome, 28 October 1932, at the Consul General's residence at Potts Point. However, Hood did not take the photograph on that day. A search of Hood's 1932 day book of appointments, acquired by the Library in 1993, revealed that the nearest entry to the above date was unequivocally for Sunday 6 November: 'Consul Marchesi / 2.45 No.10 Wylde St PP. / Group 50-'.⁹

The photograph reproduced here and in *La Dolce Vita?* was not published in the local Italian press, neither in *Il Giornale Italiano* nor in the *Italo-Australian*. A notice, however, did appear from Felice Rando, Secretary of the Sydney *Fascio*, informing its members of the availability of photographs taken when they had recently attended the Consul General's residence.⁹

A small box of negatives labelled 'Italian Consul' has recently been identified among a further consignment of Sam Hood's images. The Italian Consulate's patronising of Hood's studio unwittingly created the evidence, as in the photograph of the Sydney Fascists, by which the

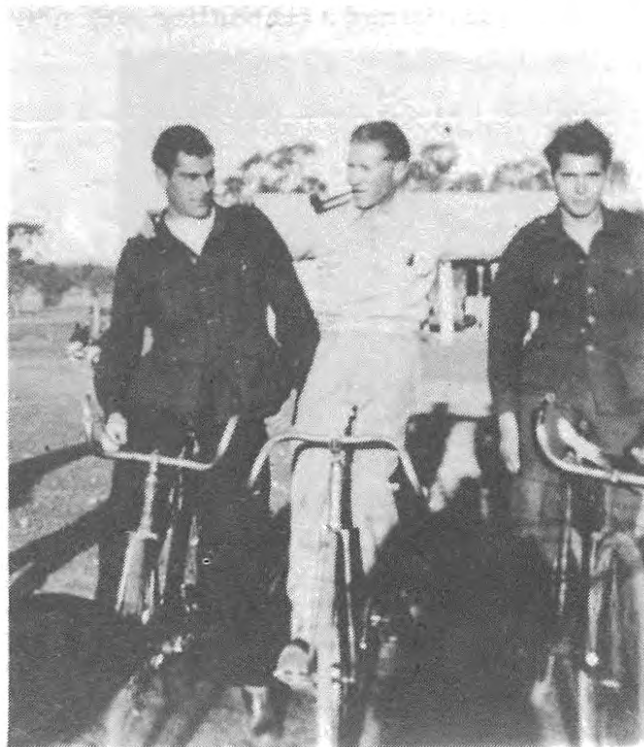
authorities identified Italians for internment.

La Dolce Vita? also introduced many visitors to E.O. Schlunke's literary depictions of Italian prisoners of war on the homefront, immortalised in his acclaimed short fiction. He was the first Australian writer to chronicle and satirise the impact of Italian POWs as farm labourers on a rural community. Schlunke's diaries of 1944-45 record his experiences as *padrone* (boss) of these prisoners on his wheat and sheep property near Temora in the Riverina. One of the prisoners under his charge, Giuseppe Maringoni, recurs as a character of the same name in several stories. In these diaries the seeds for Schlunke's fiction were sown, which sprouted into a sheaf of stories in the *Bulletin* before the migration boom of the 1950's.

Apart from its primary collecting role, the Italians in NSW Project has contributed markedly towards raising the profile of the State Library among Italian communities. From 1991 the Library has enjoyed unprecedented contact with the Italian Consulate through the former Consul General, Dr Fabio De Nardis. He

presented a range of opportunities and initiatives have been afforded to the Library, including the venue for international symposia and travelling exhibitions, joint publishing ventures and a sister-relationship with an Italian library. The Italian Historical Society (NSW) and The Library Society have jointly sponsored various lectures and talks. The State Library Press has published two books sponsored by the National Italian-Australian Women's Association, *Growing up Italian in Australia* (1993) and *Buon Appetito* (1994). Magic Boot Entertainment, the leading distributor of Italian feature films, has regularly screened classics, the contemporary and the avant-garde of Italian cinema in the Library's Metcalfe Auditorium. On the second anniversary of the Project, *Nel Nuovo Paese*, a small exhibition of materials was mounted at the Club Marconi at Bossley Park, in Sydney's outer-western municipality of Fairfield. Further afield, in a bid to promote the Project in country areas, *La Dolce Vita?* travelled to Griffith for a short engagement in September last year.

The Italians in NSW Project continues and the State Library welcomes additions to the collection. Enquiries about, and offers of material to, the Project should be directed to Jim Andrighetti at the State Library of NSW, Macquarie Street, Sydney 2000. Telephone (02) 230 1506, fax (02) 230 4086.



Bicycle thieves? E.O. Schlunke flanked by two Italian POWs on his farm at Reefton, near Temore, NSW. Courtesy of David Schlunke.

ENDNOTES

1. Pino Bosi, *On God's Command: Italian Missionaries in Australia*. CIRC, North Fitzroy, Vic, 1989, pp. 93, 95, 127; Gaetano Rando, 'Aspects of the History of the Italian Language Press in Australia 1885-1985' in Gaetano Rando and Michael Arrighi (eds), *Italians in Australia Historical and Social Perspectives*, Department of Modern Languages, University of Wollongong and the Dante Alighieri Society-Wollongong Chapter, Wollongong, NSW, 1993, p. 205; Frank Mecham, *The Church and Migrants, 1946-1987*, St. Joan of Arc Press, Haberfield, NSW, 1991; Patrick O'Farrell, *The Catholic Church and Community: An Australian History*, 3rd rev. ed., NSW University Press, Kensington, NSW, 1992; and Naomi Turner, *Catholics in Australia: A Social History*, Collins Dove, North Blackburn, Vic, 1992.
2. Mark Thornton, 'Dolce vita, storia amara' *The Sydney Review*, No. 75, May 1995, p.10
3. Little has been published on the work of the Apostolic Delegation. For a recent treatment on the conflict between Australian Irish-born bishops and the Italian Apostolic Delegates, see Richard Hall, 'Should you ever go across the sea from Ireland...' *Eureka Street*, Vol.5 No.2, March 1995, pp. 24-29.
4. Gianfranco Cresciani, 'I documenti per la storia dell'emigrazione negli archivi australiani' *Altretalia*, 8, luglio-dicembre 1992, p. 142.
5. Jim Andrighetti, 'The Italian Connection' *New Librarian* Vol.1 No.7, September 1994, p.27.
6. James Andrighetti (comp.), *Italians in New South Wales: A Guide to Archives in the Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales* (Mitchell Library Manuscripts Guides, No. 17) State Library of NSW Press, Sydney, 1995.
7. Desmond O'Grady, *Correggio Jones and the Runaways: Italo-Australian Connections*, CIS, Carlton, Vic, 1995, pp. 107-112.
8. This photograph was reproduced devoid of much of its informational content and context in Gianfranco Cresciani, *The Italians*, Australian Broadcasting Corporation, Sydney, 1985, p. 70.
9. *Il Giornale Italiano*, 12 November 1932, p.3.

AUSTRALIA - THE EARLY YEARS - 1923 TO 1926

This is a short extract from the extensive family history collected by Frank (Melbo) Provera. The first part is recounted in later life by Edda, his elder sister, and then Frank himself takes over. It begins with the then ten year-old Edda's account of the journey of Mrs Provèra and her children from Italy to Australia to join her husband and then goes on to tell something of their subsequent life in Queensland. The family was accompanied by their mother's brother Giovanni Girola (Uncle) and a family friend Giovanni Piacentino (Jack).

Edda:

We arrived at Fremantle on Wednesday the 30th of May 1923, on what was Frank's second birthday. (Frank adds at this point that in hindsight, 'it was not a bad present for myself as a two year-old to be presented with a new country in which to live for the rest of my life'). The ship continued its journey to Adelaide and then on to Melbourne where we went ashore for some sightseeing in the city. We came across an Italian cafe in Lonsdale Street, later known as Molina's and now The Latin, and we took the opportunity to have a lunch of spaghetti - a change in diet from the English fare on the 'Orsova'. (Here Frank comments that 'at this time, only about four miles away in East Brunswick there was a five months' old baby girl whom I was destined to meet for the first time some 25 years later.')

Our next stop was Sydney, where we disembarked as the ship was scheduled to discharge cargo for a few days. The Queensland passengers were transferred to a smaller passenger ship, the 'Wyandra' for the rest of the journey to Brisbane and North Queensland ports. At Townsville, the passengers for Ingham left the ship and we continued our journey for another day to Cairns where we met our father. We stayed overnight in a hotel in Spence Street before catching a train the next day for the 31 mile trip south to Bellenden Ker. There we stayed in the house on our father's and his partner's farm for a month before moving to a nearby barracks. Frank's 'cot' consisted of a stretcher made from a couple of bags fixed over a wooden framework.

Shortly after our arrival father left the partnership and formed a canecutting gang with



Passport photo for Australia, April 1923. From left: Edda (10), Leno (12), Frank (2) and Caterina Provera. Courtesy of Frank Provera.

Uncle, Jack and others to cut cane for the 1923 season in the Bellenden Ker area. Our mother did the cooking and washing of work-clothes for this large gang of men on an outside improvised wood-burning stove. This must have been quite a burden for a young woman in a strange land with such a different climate and surroundings, an unfamiliar language, and far away from all her relatives and friends.

My brother Lino and I were soon enrolled in the nearby one-teacher school where we began to learn the new language and school customs. After school we were often told to go and look for firewood for the kitchen stove - a job we enjoyed doing since there was so much of it on the uncleared farm headlands [the borders of the paddocks where the ploughs turned] and nearby bushes. This was quite different from our experience at Mirabello, our town in Piedmont, where we had to hunt high and low over areas which had been denuded of forests many years before. Regular deliveries of groceries, meat and bread were made to the farm and barracks from Babinda, but occasionally when there was a slip-up in deliveries, Lino and I had to walk the three miles to Babinda and back to pick up some bread for the day's meals before going to school that morning. There were no refrigerators or even ice-chests on the farms in those days.

Early in 1924 our father sold his share of the farm at Bellenden Ker, and with Uncle and Jack, bought a small farm from a Mr Warner for £700. It was in an area known as Block 67, about two miles east of Babinda. Some cane had already been planted and land had already been partly cleared of forest to extend the area under cane. The house, or rather shack, was fairly small, with a couple of bedrooms and a sort of kitchen. After tea Uncle and Jack used to go across to a neighbour's farm barracks to sleep. The partners immediately built another house for £100. It was put up on high blocks necessary because of floods in wet weather and made of timber and galvanised iron. The top floor had three bedrooms and two verandahs, downstairs a kitchen and eating area on floor boards, the rest mother earth. The dish-washing and laundry bench was just outside the house, beside a well built by the partners. We obtained water from the well to supplement our tank water during the drier part of the year. After the previous year's accommodation at Bellenden Ker, this new house was a luxury.

In March a baby was due so our parents went into Cairns for mother's check-up. This was

rather fortuitous since mother was put into hospital immediately and Aurora was born on Sunday the 12th of March 1924. She was a true 'Australiana' as our father used to say, proud that one of the children had been born here. Aurora was not given a second name, though our father did suggest that perhaps she should have been called 'Orientina' after the Orient Line ships which brought migrants to Australia. However better judgement prevailed and this option was discarded. (Aurora is the Italian word for 'Dawn').

With our youngest family member 100% Australian and our father already having fulfilled the minimum residence term of 5 years in Australia for naturalisation, on the 12th of August 1924 our father, mother and their three children born in Italy were naturalised at Babinda, and Certificate No CC295 was obtained from Brisbane in due course. The closest resemblance to Frank's real name on this certificate is 'Melba' - possibly the officer concerned got his second name 'Melbo' confused with Madam Melba.

There was not enough work on the farm to keep the three men fully occupied, so during the cutting season two worked with a gang whilst the other attended to farm duties. In 1925 the partners received a set-back on their farm due to a mill worker's strike against the use of too many Italians or foreigners as canecutters. After some six weeks of negotiations between the unions, the mill, the farmers and others concerned, an agreement was reached that no more than 25% of foreigners would be employed as canecutters in gangs.

Frank:

By this time, as a four year-old I was beginning to be aware of my existence and to remember my surroundings - our house with steps to the upper level, hens and roosters under and around the house, cane fields and the men working in them, clearing scrub for new paddocks and so on. Lino and Edda went off to a place they called 'school' most days of the week and came home talking a strange language called 'English'. Aurora would crawl or walk around the house and occasionally tumble down the steps. She would also hide when we had visitors. One evening I was determined to sleep in the fowl-house with a pet rooster I had been following around the yard most of the afternoon. After much persuasion by Uncle, I eventually returned to the comfort of my bed upstairs.

By 1926 I was following the men around the paddocks trying to do odd jobs. One paddock partly cleared still had many tree stumps in it and could not be worked with horses by the conventional ploughing and planting procedures. Under these conditions in order to get a cane crop and hence some income as soon as possible, cane was planted by hand-digging furrows about one foot long, six inches wide and six inches deep. A spade or mattock was used for this and after planting two sticks of cane about one foot long in each furrow, it was covered with dirt. By the time the cane grew to maturity the following year, it was hoped that the tree stumps would have decayed sufficiently to make access with the usual horse-led implements easier.

A sugar mill tramline of the usual 2ft gauge passed in front of our house and sometimes on a Sunday afternoon we would walk along the tramline for a few hundred yards to visit a farmer nearby. This was the Macaroni family and we would enjoy eating the watermelons which they grew on the headlands of their paddocks. If we wanted to visit friends further down the tramline we could hook up a horse to an empty cane truck, put a few boxes on it for seats and let the horse take us to our destination.

One afternoon out of sight of the house, Lino tried his first cigarette but after a few puffs, he decided he had had enough for a few years. He

gave me a puff also and that was enough for me for a lifetime.

By the middle of 1926 I had turned five so it was off to school with Lino, Edda and a group of their friends. Babinda school was fairly large with several rooms and at first I was a little upset at being separated from Lino and Edda. On one occasion I wandered around during school hours looking in every room to see if they were still there. Getting to school was a two-mile walk following the dirt road and the mill tramline to Babinda, then crossing the Babinda Creek on the road bridge just before reaching the township. We had a bit of excitement one morning when one of the girls walked across the adjacent railway bridge instead of the road bridge. A train suddenly appeared around the corner and she had to make a sudden jump onto the sand below. Fortunately the bridge was a low one and she was not injured.

The walk home from school in fine weather was more interesting in that we used to go along the water's edge of Babinda Creek (when it was not in flood) for about a mile and a half and then climb up the bank and cut across the cane fields to get home. At least this way we did not have to walk past the dead horse under a tree near the tramline which became the situation later in the year. In mid-December our welcome seven weeks' school holidays started and this took us through to 1927.



A recent panoramic view of Mirabello Monferrato, the town of origin of the Proveras. Courtesy of Frank Provera.

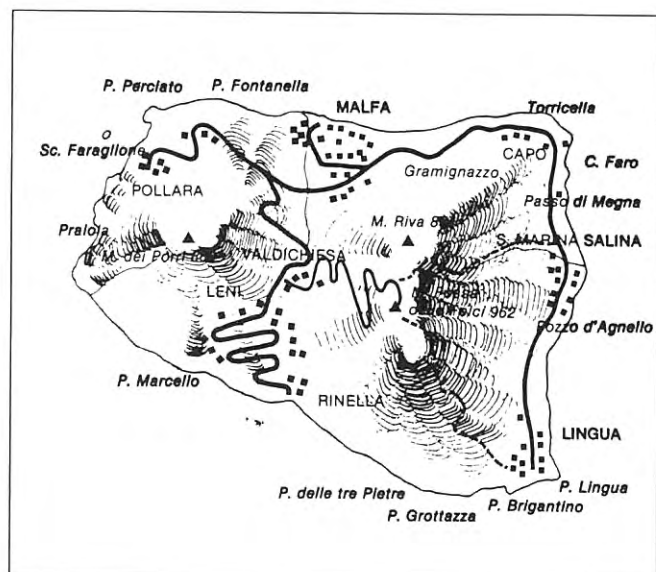
JEAN VIRGONA: Archbishop Mannix's Italian housekeeper

by Maria Santospirito Triaca

Jean Virgona deserves a special place among the Italian Aeolians in Melbourne, having had the privilege of being housekeeper at "Raheen" for Archbishop Mannix for several years. This came about during the Second World War when people were expected to assist with the war effort, like working in munition factories.

Jean wasn't too anxious to do war work. Fortunately my mother, Lena Santospirito, knew that Dr Mannix was looking for a housekeeper so she persuaded Jean to take on the job "temporarily". Jean thought that since Dr Mannix was already 80 years old, he probably wouldn't live much longer. Ironically she ended up in the "temporary" job for 20 years, as Dr Mannix died in his hundredth year.

Jean was an extraordinary person and as my brother Anthony Santospirito remarked in his eulogy at Jean's funeral in 1994: *"She was always self composed. She never dominated the scene, but knowing her you realised there was a guiding spirit within her which made her the basic influence for good she was for all those around her"*. Jean's family originated from Leni on the Island of Salina, one of the Aeolian Islands, from which she inherited a deep religious faith.



Island of Salina - Aeolian Islands

Her grandparents kept vineyards on the Island. Her maternal grandmother ran the first office in the village and was also the teacher. Her father Giuseppe Virgona, like many of his compatriots, emigrated first to America in 1895 where he worked for a few years in order to build up resources. He then returned to the island, where he married Maria Carmela Picone in 1899.

In 1901 he emigrated to Australia and in 1905 his wife joined him and they settled in Terang, a country town in Victoria, opening their own shop in 1906. They were amongst the Aeolian pioneers in Terang.

Their first daughter was born in 1907, the lovely high-spirited member of the family, who surprised everyone when she entered the convent, in 1930. Sr Rupert was extraordinarily gifted as a teacher. One of her pupils received the highest marks in Italian in Victoria and while she was Mother Superior at Presentation Sandringham her pupils won the Presentation Scholarships in each of the seven years she was there. In her early years as a nun in Myrtleford in 1936, she kept in contact with the Italian Community. Moved by their hardship and deprivations, she organised English lessons and formed a lending library of Italian books and magazines.

Her chief support was her sister Jean who wore out a path to the Italian bookshop of its well known owner, Gino Nibbi. Quite often what Nibbi thought suitable for the readers in Myrtleford was not always judged suitable by Jean to be housed in a convent library. Sister Rupert, or "Rhubarb" as her nearest and dearest pupils affectionately called her, provided a much needed and much sought after service in her thirteen years in Myrtleford from where she departed in 1949.

In 1916 a fire wiped out everything the Virgonas had set up in Terang. The great esteem the people of Terang felt for the Virgona family was shown by the help various families gave them. The solicitor's wife and the hotel keeper lent Giuseppe one hundred gold pieces. In addition, some close Aeolian friends and the bank took care of them and lent them money encouraging them to rebuild and start afresh. They opened

them to rebuild and start afresh. They opened the first icecream and soft drink factory and the first refrigerated cool rooms for fruit in Terang. They remained in Terang for 26 years.

Following an unfortunate accident in which Jean's mother, Carmela, broke her back leaving her an invalid for life, the family was obliged to move to Melbourne in 1931. They settled in a house in East Malvern and opened a fruit shop nearby. Three years later their father Giuseppe died.

Jean had wanted to join the Carmelites when she was 17 or 18. This might have been a very strong wish, but when her mother became a cripple she said to her children: *"Who is going to look after my family now?"* Jean put up her hand and said: *"I will"*. It must have been a deep sacrifice. That was the end of Jean's hopes of joining the Carmelites.

Jean was a marvellous nurse for her mother, looking after her until her death in 1942. This made it possible for Jean to accept the invitation to take over Raheen's housekeeping and it was not long after that Jean's sister Lena and brothers Vin and Ernie were also involved in this important task.

Little did they know what they were walking into. The responsibility and organisation of "Raheen's" housekeeping and looking after Dr Mannix was a huge undertaking; not only was the place huge but so were the Christmas and Easter feasts. These were attended by large numbers of guests. There were so many courses to be served that on one occasion Jean's brother Ernie, who used to help in the kitchen or serve at the tables with his family, forgot to serve one of them.

The sumptuous dinners were always accompanied by a variety of wines and selected liqueurs which were always on the table. Dr Mannix never drank, so often his guests wouldn't drink either. Some of the clergy who would drink as private guests, would not touch the wine and liqueurs at banquets if no-one else started. Eventually Jean went around the table and poured the liqueurs into their glasses or coffee to save any embarrassment. One of the Bishops who had taken the pledge not to drink, once noticed that Jean had put a little more wine in the soup and made the remark that he didn't think Dr Mannix would take spirits, to which Mannix retorted: *"I never question what the cook puts into the meal"*.

The clergy were not the only visitors to "Raheen". Dr Mannix often had notable visitors who had to be looked after. To mention a few: Sybil Thornfyke, Sydney McEwan, the Prince and Princess of Luxembourg and the Duke of Norfolk.

Another special visitor which would have been very special for Dr Mannix was the visit of Ireland's first Minister Plenipotentiary to Australia, Dr T. J. Kiernan accompanied by his family.

I remember when the Virgona family first started the housekeeping at "Raheen". Jean caught His Grace out of the corner of her eye, picking up a book on his desk and turning it over to check if it had been dusted and putting it down again with a satisfied smile. I don't think



Archbishop Mannix, c1940.

anyone realised how much time and effort it took to keep "Raheen" shipshape but I know how much His Grace appreciated the Virgona family and he wanted to show his gratitude.

He had decided to sell the land around "Raheen" to raise money. There was a lot of prime residential land overlooking the Boulevard and Yarra Bend. He wanted to give Jean one of the blocks. Jean asked him why he was selling the land. He said to raise money for schools, churches and other charitable causes. She answered: *"Then if I want one I will buy one"*. Jean was generous and always thinking of others.

"Raheen" came first for the Virgonas. They rarely had any time off. The job was full-time, three hundred and sixty five days. The only chance of some leisure or rest was in the summer when His Grace would go to Portsea for a month. They would go to their own home in East Malvern but not for long, having to return to give "Raheen" a spring clean, especially the huge library. This was a nightmare. Apart from the time it took to dust each book, people often borrowed books and didn't return them or they would be books returned and left on top of each other gathering dust. Summer was the only time they could cope with it because there were no visitors to interrupt the exercise. So much for their summer holiday!

However one day in the middle of this operation the door bell rang. They hesitated. Would they answer it or not? Their conscience won and they opened the door. Just as well, because it was a special relation, a very strict and distinguished gentleman Salvatore Favaloro and family down from Bendigo.

They were caught there and then up ladders, dressed in their old work clothes, certainly not exactly dressed for such visitors. He said: *"Jean, you're doing this work! You can tell me it isn't my business but for the respect I had for your parents this isn't the sort of work you've got to do"*. Jean replied that it had to be done sometime. It was just as well that Uncle Salv didn't know what the daily routine amounted to. It was amazing what the two girls fitted in each day. Jean was a natural gourmet cook so she did most of the cooking in between making appointments for Dr Mannix and taking messages and Lena looked after the housework in between answering the door bell. They would keep as much as possible to a daily routine. This meant that they would have to be up by 6.00am

at least in order to be ready to answer Dr Mannix's Mass at 7.00am and to have prepared the breakfast ready by 8 o'clock and to have as much as possible of the essential daily routine cleaning done before Mass. This meant cleaning carpets, washing and polishing basins before the appointments began or any number of unexpected visitors.

Dr Mannix did not have a secretary at "Raheen". All his business was done at St Patrick's Presbytery by Bishop Fox or Dr Lyons and by Mr Brady who checked the upkeep of maintenance of St Patrick's and "Raheen". The majority of appointments were made at St Patrick's. If people particularly wanted to see Dr Mannix personally, they would come to the door of "Raheen" or make appointments by phone.

Dr Mannix would walk to St. Patrick's everyday until he was well into 90 years old unless he was in a hurry.

On his way he often had the company of a hobo asking for money for a meal. Dr Mannix knew he was going to the pub, but he always gave some money and asked *"What did you do with the other meal?"*

For travelling, he never drove himself but depended on Carr's Taxi Service to keep a car aside for him. Mrs Carr's son Dick would always drive him, especially for St Patrick's processions.

On Saturdays the Virgonas would serve him lunch and then he would go to St Patrick's and not return till late after confessions. Often he would remain at St. Patrick's where he had a private suite of rooms and on Sunday lunch at one of the convents and then open a fete or some other affair and be back to "Raheen" for Sunday night meal.

When the Virgonas were asked if that was their official time off, they answered that it was supposed to be, but they still had to be around because there was always something to do.

Dr Mannix never carried a key. Somebody suggested that he didn't have a key because he didn't want to go into an empty house especially one as big as "Raheen".

To keep in touch with their house in East Malvern, Jean's brother Vin would drive Lena to their home on Monday and come back on Tuesday night to bring her back to "Raheen", so it was easy for 'would be thieves' to know when



Jean Virgona (top row, second from left) and Lena Virgona (top row, second from right) at a "Thank You" party given in December 1949 by the Catholic Welfare Organization, in appreciation of services of the visiting Italian Grand Opera Company members in cause of charity. Mrs Lena Santospirito, president of the Archbishop's Italian Relief Committee is also featured (bottom row, second from right).

to burgle their house and that is exactly what happened.

Jean had been talking to Dr Mannix about the possibility of robbers or squatters breaking into her house. Their house was called "San Giuseppe" and Jean had said to His Grace that while St Joseph looked after their house, they would stay at "Raheen" but if anything happened to their house they would leave. Of course they stayed on.

A lot of Jean's time was taken up making appointments for visitors to see Dr Mannix at "Raheen". There were the frequent ones that I knew of such as Father Ugo Modotti, Chaplain for the Italian Community; Bob Santamaria and Mr and Mrs Arthur Calwell. I have to include my mother Mrs Santospirito who was given the title of 'La Mamma degli Italiani' by a visiting journalist from America for the work she did for the Italians during the war. She could not have done it without the help of Dr Mannix and Arthur Calwell, both dear friends. Through them the Italians were permitted to gather at the St George's Hall in Carlton and it was possible for her to place the children of internees

into boarding schools. Moreover, His Grace was always sympathetic in the fifties when there was an influx of Italians immigrants needing jobs.

Dr Mannix would always see anyone who came to the door with or without appointments, no matter how they looked, whether they were down and out or spick and span they all got to see him. Jean said only once she nearly resisted. A man came up on horseback looking bedraggled and insisting he wanted to bring his horse into the hall with him. Jean did not want to let him in, let alone the horse! Fortunately someone was there who knew him and enthusiastically called out his name. It was Ray Triado, an extraordinary person, a gifted solicitor and a very interesting personality who wanted to gather a group of families into a family community to live on the land in a natural environment including schooling. The group settled near Mansfield but later disbanded. Sometime later he was sent to Italy with his family to represent Australia for some years. He was certainly well known.

Another time there was a clash of visitors. Mr Bob Santamaria, who was a regular visitor,

arrived at the same time as Clifton Pugh. Pugh's reason for seeing Dr Mannix was to arrange a suitable time to make a few sketches for a painting of Dr Mannix. Dr Mannix spoke to Pugh first and in the newspaper the next day Pugh claimed that Dr Mannix had disregarded Bob Santamaria and attended to him first. Jean was not too happy about this episode because she knew that Dr Mannix spoke to Pugh first *"to get rid of him quickly because he would have needed to speak to Bob for some time as usual"*.

Although "Raheen" was a lot of work for the Virginas there was a lot of satisfaction and humour. It wasn't always just work. For instance in the racing season Dr Mannix, the Virginas and Mr Brady would make up a sweep together. One year Dr Mannix won and gave all his winnings to somebody who came to the door to ask for money.

One year during the racing season Jean had some relations visiting from Sydney. Their young son asked Dr Mannix if it was true that His Grace refused to let a horse owner name his horse "Mannix" because he didn't want it to be beaten by a head. Dr Mannix confirmed the story, given that the name of the Anglican Bishop was "Head".

My brother Gerard was Jean's god-child. He was a Xavier student and was in the rowing team with James Gobbo. In 1948 the school took part in the Head of the River races, held on the Barwon River in Geelong; so off we went with a car full of supporters all decorated in the Xavier colours, black and red ribbons. My mother had us praying the Rosary all the way. You can imagine our excitement when my brother's team won, especially because there were two Italians in the crew. Xavier hasn't won since! My mother had us praying all the way back in thanksgiving. When we arrived home, Jean rang very excited and said she'd had Dr Mannix praying for their success. It was obvious that the other schools didn't stand a chance!

A couple of years ago Xavier's Rowing Club made the decision to name nine new boats after the boys of the winning crew of 1948. Unfortunately Gerard had passed away several years before and it was quite moving for the Santospirito family to have a photo taken with the boat named after him. Although Jean was not able to be at the ceremony she was very impressed at the thoughtfulness of those in charge.

Dr Mannix saw people until the day he died on

Melbourne Cup Day, 6th November 1963.

After Dr Mannix died, Bishop Simonds became Archbishop and moved into "Raheen". Jean and Lena stayed for a short time while he settled in. A few things had to be re-arranged. Dr Mannix's old-fashioned bedroom and bathroom were not suitable for Dr Simonds. On the first night he rang the bell and asked for a step ladder. He tried and tried to get into the bed. Dr Simonds asked for a bed he could get into. He said it so seriously they had to laugh. Dr Mannix being very tall had no trouble at all.

As for the bath he was sure he would drown in it. The bath was deep with a corrugated canopy and when the tap was turned on there was a lovely spray that went all around the canopy.

After "Raheen" the Virgona sisters settled into their home in Selbourne Road, Kew. To get an idea of the amount of work that they put in at "Raheen" it is worth noting that when they left, it took four people to replace them and caterers were employed for the big banquets.

Moreover, amidst all their work Jean would find time to help the nuns at the Good Shepherd Convent in Abbotsford, at Caritas Christi and Carmelite Monastery and at functions of the Italian community.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Many thanks to Christina. Without her taped interview of her aunt Jean this project would not have been possible. And thanks to Beverley and Anthony Santospirito for encouragement.

ITALY'S NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE

"for their suffering brethren at home"

by Maria Tence

In 1866 a committee was formed in Melbourne to collect funds for war-wounded soldiers who fought for Italian independence. The president of the committee, Cav. Giuseppe Biagi was the first appointed Italian Consul in Melbourne.

The manuscripts relating to the 1866 community fundraising are held in the Society's Diplomatic Archives and serve as an excellent reference of surnames of Italians living in Victoria at that time. There appears to have been four lists of contributors but to date the Society has been able to locate only three.

The collection was an attempt to raise funds to further the campaign for the unification of Italy by liberating the Veneto region and resulted in £147.9.0 being raised equivalent to Lire3,686.25. Even though contemporary accounts state that it was *"not a great amount considering that at the time there were almost two thousand Italians in Australia"*¹, the manuscripts reveal that the donations, in the main, came from the districts of Daylesford and Guildford where a large number of Swiss Italians had settled and should in fact be seen as a generous effort by that community.

It was not a first attempt to raise funds for a patriotic cause. An earlier fundraising effort was held in 1861 to raise money for a sword of honour that was presented to Garibaldi in recognition of his contribution towards the unification of Italy. This appeal which raised £358 received extensive financial support from Melbourne's commercial firms and the general public, not to mention the diamond for the sword's hilt donated by an Australian jeweller².

The sentiments behind both campaigns reflected substantial support for a liberated Italy not only from expatriates who saw the efforts as a measure of their patriotic commitment but also from the wider colonial community which endorsed Italy's liberation from foreign dominance.

It is interesting to understand why the Italian speaking pioneers who emigrated to the distant colony of Victoria felt compelled to support the Unification of Italy, considering that the majority

of them at the time were predominantly Swiss Italians, mainly from Ticino.

The Ticinesi shared a strong sense of national identity with Italians, given their common language and cultural traditions³.

The inhabitants of Ticino and the Alpine areas of northern Italy were accustomed to seasonal emigration, and as a *"consequence of the political upheavals of 1815, 1821 and 1831..... thousands of patriots and political refugees left Italy for other European cities and continents"*⁴. This, with the worsening economic climate experienced by Italy and indeed many parts of Europe, in addition to consecutive years of poor agricultural conditions, forced many in the Alpine valleys to seek alternative destinations.

The gold discoveries of Victoria of the 1850s lured many fortune seekers and discontented northern Italians and to the colony. Those from Ticino were particularly eager to emigrate as their sources of itinerant work and interaction with Lombardy were halted by its Austrian rulers who had closed the borders with Switzerland⁵.

Because of inadequate record-keeping methods it is difficult to determine exactly how many Italians were present in Victoria at the time of the fundraising. There have been many attempts by various scholars to arrive at a plausible estimate. According to Caroline Alcorso, the total population of the colony of Victoria in 1868 was 600,000 and it was estimated that of these 1,600 were Italian⁶. In contrast, Jacqueline Templeton points out that only 772 Italians were recorded in the 1871 census⁷. Charles D'Aprano, on the other hand, claims that *"there were approximately 6,000 Italian speakers in the colony by 1860"*⁸.

The Italian consul at the time, Giuseppe Biagi, kept records on the numbers of Italians in the colony. He did this by implementing a register which required Italians to attend the Consulate and list their names and addresses. As described in the following extract from a report dated 24 February 1866 from Consul Biagi to the Minister of Foreign Affairs in Florence, the register was by no means accurate:

On the subject of the list of Italian nationals in Victoria.....,there are,..... allowing for departures, the number of Italians registered in the colony is reduced to 95, a further 230 who have not bothered to register; thus the total of Italians in Victoria should be at least 325, but could be considerably larger, allowing for those scattered over the colony⁹.

Maintaining a record of the numbers of Italians arriving, departing and living in the colony was not a simple exercise. The requirement to be registered with the Consulate was disseminated by word of mouth and obviously those Italians who had settled in rural areas, itinerant workers and miners, were able to evade registration. Consul Biagi himself had scoured the countryside in an attempt to find unregistered Italians.

As mentioned above, both the 1861 and the 1866 collections were generously supported by the wider community possibly because of the traditional cultural rapport that then existed between England and Italy. The English had given financial support to the unification effort and received Giuseppe Mazzini during his political exile. There was also a general appreciation of Italian culture and history amongst the more educated and travelled in the colony.

The following lists of contributors mainly from the goldmining region of Victoria, show a significant number of non-Italian donors. A possible explanation for this is that even though it would be many years before Australian settlers would experience unification of the colonies into a nation state, there seemed to exist a solidarity amongst the gold miners (of whom a significant number were Italian). This comradeship was reinforced during the riots over the mining licences which culminated with the Eureka Stockade.

The consensus amongst scholars is that the majority of Italians in Victoria emigrated from the northern regions of Italy: from the valleys of Piedmont, provinces of Lombardy and the neighbouring Swiss Cantons of Ticino and Grisons. They were largely attracted to the environs of Daylesford, where a number remained to form a thriving and dynamic community.

These lists which give the names of donors, country of birth and place of residence are

reprinted here and will be of great value to those wishing to trace their ancestry.

ENDNOTES

¹ Cresciani G, 1988, *Migrants or Mates: Italian Life in Australia*, Knockmore Enterprises, Sydney, p. 13
² Randazzo N & Cigler M, 1987, *The Italians in Australia*, AE Press, Melbourne, p. 64.
³ D'Aprano C, 1995, *From Goldrush to Federation*, Int Press, Victoria, p. 6
⁴ Cecilia T., 1987, *We didn't Arrive Yesterday*, The Sunnyland Press, Victoria, p. 45
⁵ D'Aprano C, p. 24
⁶ Alcorso C, 1992, "Early Italian Migration and the Construction of European Australia 1788-1939" in Castles S, Alcorso C, Rando G and Vasta E (Eds), *Australia's Italians: Culture and Community in a Changing Society*, p. 8.
⁷ Templeton J, 1995, "The Swiss Connection: The Origins of the Valtellina-Australia Migrations" in *Australian Historical Studies*, April 1995, p. 393.
⁸ D'Aprano, p. 11.
⁹ Diplomatic Archives, Affari Esteri, 1861-1887, Busta 253 (891), 24 February 1866.



Italy at the end of 1866. The Papal State was annexed in 1870 and the region of Trentino after the First World War.

MANIFESTO.

L'ITALIA è giunta ormai alla prova suprema per compiere la sua Nazionale Indipendenza. La miglior parte dei suoi figli combatte col Re Galante, per la sospirata rivendicazione della Venezia. Ad ingrossare l'Esercito, gran numero di Volontarij accorse sotto il comando del prode Generale Garibaldi.

Ogni altro affetto, ogni altro interesse sacrificarono i generosi alla Nazione, risolti tutti a dar per essa il sangue e la vita; e già molto sangue fu sparso, molte vite furono spente, molte famiglie prive dei loro sostegni furono ridotte nella miseria.

Gli Italiani che si trovano lungi dalla Patria, negli ansiosi momenti in cui se ne decidono le sorti, non possono a meno di sentir vivo il bisogno di manifestare attaccamento alla causa comune, e pietoso interesse pei fratelli che soffrono.

Un Comitato Italiano è stato formato in Melbourne per raccogliere nella Colonia di Vittoria contribuzioni in soccorso dei feriti in guerra per l'Indipendenza Nazionale e delle loro famiglie bisognose.

Il Comitato ha sede presso il R. Ufficio Consolare d'Italia (36, William-street), ed è composto dei signori:—

BIAGI CAVALIER GIUSEPPE, R. Console,
Presidente.
CAMPI ANGELO.
CUTOLO MAESTRO CESARE.
DARDANELLI BARTOLOMMEO.
DINON MASSIMILIANO.
KING ACHILLE.
MARTELLI DOTTOR ALESSANDRO.
COSSU AVV. CARLO, R. Vice-Console,
Segretario.

Le somme ricevute dal Comitato sia diretta-

ITALY has at length arrived at the supreme juncture which promises to complete her National Independence. The greater part of her sons have taken up arms with her Gallant Sovereign, in order to secure the ardently desired recovery of Venice. To swell the army, numbers of Volunteers have flocked to the standard of the intrepid General Garibaldi.

All other feelings, all other interests have been surrendered by her generous children to the Nation, each being resolute to shed his blood, and to sacrifice his life, in her cause. Already, indeed, much blood has been spilt and many lives have been lost, and many families, deprived of their mainstay, have been reduced to misery.

Those Italians who are far removed from their native land, cannot but feel, in this hour of her trial, an earnest desire to manifest their attachment to the common cause, and their sympathy for their suffering brethren at home.

An Italian Committee has been therefore formed in Melbourne, to collect in the Colony of Victoria, contributions for the relief of the wounded in the war of National Independence, and of their distressed families.

The Committee meets at the office of His Majesty's Consul for Italy (36, William-street), and is composed of the following gentlemen:—

BIAGI CAVALIER GIUSEPPE, Consul,
President.
CAMPI ANGELO.
CUTOLO MAESTRO CESARE.
DARDANELLI BARTOLOMMEO.
DINON MASSIMILIANO.
KING ACHILLE.
MARTELLI DOTTOR ALESSANDRO.
COSSU AVV. CARLO, Vice Consul, *Hon.*
Secretary.

The sums collected by the Committee, whether

mente, sia dai collettori in altri luoghi della Colonia, saranno, insieme colla liste dei contribuenti, spedite in Italia a cura del R. Console.

La spedizione delle somme pervenute al Comitato sarà disposta tre giorni prima della partenza dell' ordinario postale; quelle che giungeranno in seguito saranno spedite coll' ordinario successivo.

Il Comitato si adunerà perciò il giorno 25 alle ore tre.

CARLO COSSU,
Segretario.

MELBOURNE, 18 Agosto, 1866.

directly, or by the Collectors in different parts of the Colony, will be forwarded to Italy, together with a list of the Contributors, by His Majesty's Consul.

The amount received up to the 25th inst. will be sent by the outgoing mail; subscriptions which come to hand afterwards, will be transmitted by the succeeding mail.

The Committee will meet on the 25th of each month at three o'clock.

CARLO COSSU,
Hon. Secretary.

MELBOURNE, 18th August, 1866.

Ammontare della 3^a Lista di contro — L. st. 12. 12. 6
pari a L. ital. 315. 62

Spese dal 26 Settembre al 25 Ottobre — { Pubblicazioni — L. st. 1. 9. 0
Posta — " 0. 1. 0
L. 1. 10. 0 = 37. 50
L. ital. 278. 12
Prov. di cambio 1/2 p. 100 — " 4. 17
L. ital. 273. 95

Riepilogo al 25 Ottobre 1866.

Somme raccolte

1^a Lista — L. st. 56. 18. 0
2^a — " 62. 0. 0
3^a — " 12. 12. 6
L. st. 131. 18. 6 — L. ital. 3288. 12

Quota de spese ancora fin qui versate — " 270. 52

L. ital. 3017. 60

Somme spedite

In agosto — L. st. 1422. 50
Settembre — " 1321. 15
Ottobre — " 273. 95

L. ital. — 3017. 60

**COLLECTION FROM ITALIANS RESIDING IN THE COLONY OF VICTORIA
IN AID OF THE [soldiers] WOUNDED IN THE WAR FOR
NATIONAL INDEPENDANCE AND THEIR FAMILIES IN NEED**

Note: The lists of donors have been reprinted in the order and manner in which they appear in the original manuscript. To assist the reader, we have included the major Italian city nearest to the town reported in the document. For Swiss-Italian towns we have added the country.

List No. 2 - Collection from 25th August to 25 September 1866

**COLLETTA
DEGLI ITALIANI DIMORANTI NELLA COLONIA DI VITTORIA
IN SOCCORSO DEI FERITI IN GUERRA PER L'INDIPENDENZA NAZIONALE,
E DELLE LORO FAMIGLIE BISOGNOSE.**

Lista No. 2. Offerte raccolte dal Sig. 25 agosto al 25 settembre 1866

NOOME E COGNOME.	PATRIA.	DIMORA.	SOMMA PAGATA
1. Aldwell W. B.	Irlanda	Melbourne	2
2. Barassi Giuseppe	Italia	Guildford	5
3. Barbieri Giuseppe	Rovigno	Guildford	2

NAME	HOMELAND	RESIDENCE
Aldwell W. B.	Ireland	Melbourne
Barassi Giuseppe	Italy	Guildford
Barbieri Giuseppe	Rovigno [Genova]	Guildford
Bardi Giovanni	La Spezia	Guildford
Barnasocchi Pietro	Switzerland	Guildford
Basili Giuseppe	Orvieto [Terni]	Daylesford
Basto Antonio	Portugal	Melbourne
Bath T.	England	Guildford
Bedola Brothers	Switzerland	Hepburn
Belgio Luigi	Intra [Novara]	Hepburn
Bell George	England	Guildford
Benada Giacomo	Ticino [Switzerland]	Sandhurst
Biaggi C. A.	Switzerland	Guildford
Blackson Joseph	Melbourne	Springfield
Blair W. A.	England	Melbourne
Bollito Lorenzo	Asti	Hepburn
Bonetti Giuseppe	Switzerland	Guildford
Bonetti Tobia	Switzerland	Guildford
Borsa Battista	Switzerland	Hepburn
Bouveret	France	Daylesford
Bracesco Francesco	Italy	Sandhurst
Brambilla Paolo	Asti	Daylesford
Breliano Giuseppe	--	Whim Holes

Brigliadori Giovanni	Rimini [Forlì]	Guildford
Brocco Carlo	Switzerland	Guildford
Brocco Pietro	San Martino [Switzerland]	Guildford
Brown & Tough	Scotland	Melbourne
Callegari Giovanni	Muceno [Varese]	Guildford
Campana Giovanni	Colla [Switzerland]	Guildford
Campili Michele	Switzerland	Guildford
Canna Pietro	Casale [Alessandria]	Melbourne
Casinelli Angelo	Genova	Daylesford
Cassarino Geatano	Italy	Sandhurst
Celle Antonio	Castiglione Chiavarese [Genova]	Taradale
Cerioli Luigi	Gurro [Novara]	Hepburn
Cima Carlo	Monza Milano]	Hepburn
Cooking S.	England	Melbourne
Costantini Francesco	Cassano Valcuvia [Varese]	Guildford
Cox T.	England	Guildford
Crippa Fabrizio	Monza [Milano]	Hepburn
Dellagana Mansueto	Aurigeno [Switzerland]	Guildford
Delmenico Giovanni	Ticino [Switzerland]	Guildford
Dolphin William	England	Guildford
Downic Charles	Melbourne	Melbourne
Edgard James	England	Melbourne
Falconer G. G.	Ireland	Melbourne
Fanzi Giuseppe	Albiolo [Como]	Guildford
Fasoli Eugerio	Como	Daylesford
Fasoli Vincenzo	Como	Hepburn
Favaloro Giuseppe	Sicily [Italy]	Guildford
Finley David	Ireland	Guildford
Fisher Robert	England	Guildford
Franzi Ludovico	Intra [Novara]	Guildford
Gaffeny W. J.	Ireland	Guildford
Gagiero Lorenzo	Carcare [Savona]	Springfield
Gagioni Giacomo	Switzerland	Hepburn
Gambirasi Giovanni	Italy	Sandhurst
Garbarino Giuseppe	Italy	Sandhurst
Gentle E.	--	Daylesford
Gervasoni Giovanni	Bergamo	Daylesford
Giambone Pietro	Italy	Guildford
Gianelli Michele	Castiglione Chiavarese [Genova]	Taradale
Giovanetti Costantino	Switzerland	Guildford
Godfrey George	England	Guildford
Graham James	Scotland	Melbourne
Hanson A.	Germany	Melbourne
Hick W.	Victoria	Melbourne
Impariali Pasquale	Italy	Guildford
Irwin S.	Ireland	Daylesford
Jaetwell Roger	England	Hepburn
Katzenstein Isaac	Cassel [?]	Melbourne
King Achille	Milan	Melbourne
Kitto R. L. M.	England	Freyerstown (?)
Lang William	Scotland	Melbourne
Lavezzolo Giovanni	Chiavari [Genova]	Daylesford
Leone Giuseppe	Switzerland	Guildford
Lertora Battista	Italy	Guildford
Lobb William	England	Guildford
Lockeyear A.	London	Guildford
Mantico Ambrogio	Monza [Milano]	Hepburn
Martelli Alessandro	Turin	Lilydale
Martin Charles R.	England	Melbourne
Martin T. James	England	Melbourne

Miller M.	Tasmania	Melbourne
Monotti Giacomo	Switzerland	Daylesford
Monti Angelo Bartolommeo	Cuzzago [Novara]	Springfield
Monti Carlo	Cuzzago [Novara]	Taradale
Moresi Francesco	Ticino [Switzerland]	Guildford
Muschialli Domenico	Como	Dry Diggins
Nardi Francesco	Fermo [Ascoli Piceno]	Guildford
Newman James	Ireland	Guildford
Nobili Oreste	Bologna	Melbourne
Paganetti Albino	Switzerland	Daylesford
Panosetti Giovanni	Vergobbio [Varese]	Guildford
Parravicini Giovanni	Vill'Albese [Como]	Guildford
Peers F. W.	Scotland	Melbourne
Pelascini Guiseppe	Como	Melbourne
Pincini Guiseppe	Switzerland	Guildford
Prais H.	Switzerland	Campbell's Creek
Quintaba Domenico	Ancona	Guildford
Rappaccioli Francesco	Piacenza	Daylesford
Ravenna Giulio	Lavagna [Genova]	Guildford
Reanda Abbondio	Switzerland	Guildford
Rooke W. H.	Wales	Melbourne
Rolino Ambrogio	La Spezia	Guildford
Rossi Domenico	Italy	Sandhurst
Rotanzi Francesco	Switzerland	Hepburn
Rusconi Carlo	San Martino [Switzerland]	Guildford
Sammes David	England	Guildford
Sartori Lazzaro	Switzerland	Yandoit
Schunke Adolfo	Prussia	Guildford
Sciallero Fortunato	Italy	Sandhurst
Sciallero Sara	Sydney	Sandhurst
Selfe James	England	Melbourne
Smith James	England	Guildford
Spigalia Battista	Switzerland	Guildford
Stanbridge W. C.	England	Daylesford
Strana Giovanni	Catania	Guildford
Tirinzani Pasquale	Cannobio [Novara]	Guildford
Togni Antonio	Switzerland	Hepburn
Traverso Luigi	Genova	Guildford
Vanotti Giovanni	Switzerland	Guildford
Vittorelli Cesare	Vicenza	Daylesford
Wallworth S.	England	Melbourne
Welsh H. P.	England	Melbourne
Whear Thomas	England	Guildford
Wickers Edward	England	Melbourne
Wilkie Joseph	England	Melbourne
Wittver G. G.	Switzerland	Guildford
Wright John	England	Guildford
Zignago Francesco	La Spezia	Guildford

List No. 3 - Collection from 26th September to 25th October 1866

Alexander W. M.	Scotland	Daylesford
Anderson Robert	Scotland	Dromana
Appleton N.	--	--
Austin, Miss	--	Melbourne
Basili Guiseppe	Orvieto	Daylesford
Bateman N.	--	Melbourne

Breliano Giuseppe	--	Whim Holes
Buckley R.	--	Melbourne
Campbell John	Canada	Dromana
Cobianchi Pompeo	Intra [Novara]	Hepburn
Cryghton John	Scotland	--
Dennis N.	--	Melbourne
Dixon S. W.	England	Dromana
Hailes N.	--	--
Haldan Alexander	Scotland	Dromana
Handfield N.	--	Melbourne
Handfield M. M. P	--	Melbourne
Healy Daniel	Ireland	Hepburn
Horsley N.	--	--
King E. T.	--	Melbourne
Lucini Pietro	Intra [Novara]	Hepburn

24 Miller N.			0.1.0
25 Mr Lear George		Dromana	0.5.0
26 Moline N.			0.1.0
27 Motherwell N.			0.3.0
28 Mueller Car. Gott. Ferdinando	Denimarc	Melbourne	5.0.1
29 Mullen N.			0.1.0
30 Murray Smith N.			0.1.0
31 Reymer Giovanni Carlo	Australia	Dromana	0.2.6
32 Rhys E. N.	Wales	Hepburn	0.5.0

Martinoni Rocco	--	--
McCrea Dr. N.	--	--
Miller N.	--	--
Mc Lear George	--	Dromana
Moline N.	--	--
Motherwell N.	--	--
Muller Dr Ferdinand,	Denmark	Melbourne
Mullen N.	--	--
Murray Smith N.	--	--
Reymer John Charles	Australia	Dromana
Rhys E. R.	Wales	Hepburn
Ridgway N.	--	--
Russ N.	--	--
Walsh N.	--	--
Watkin Richard	England	Dromana
Wilkie Dr. A.	--	--
Wilkie N.	--	--
Williams S. John	Wales	Daylesford
Windson F. E.	England	--

List No. 4

Nome e Cognome	Patria	Dimora	Somma pagata		
1. Bertola Giovanni	Sondrio	Clunes	"	2	6
2. Bolla Felice	Switzerland	Daylesford	"	5	"

Bertola Giovanni	Sondrio	Clunes
Bolla Felice	Switzerland	Daylesford
Bonetti Giovanni	--	Daylesford
Breliano Guisepppe	Italy	Whim Holes
Brusaschi Giovanni	Tirano [Sondrio]	Clunes
Buttola Pietro	Teglio [Sondrio]	Maldon
Cabasso Giacomo	Tirano [Sondrio]	Maldon
Campana Alessandro	Scotland	Walhalla
Colonelo Martino	Grosotto [Sondrio]	Maldon
Daoro Pietro Antonio	Italy	Daylesford
Del Colombo Gabriello	Volterra [Pisa]	Melbourne
Dentella Giacomo	Italy	Daylesford
Dollar Maria	--	Daylesford
Dunchi Bernardo	Teglio [Sondrio]	Maldon
Eccles G. H.	Ireland	Walhalla
Fogar Francesco	Messina	Melbourne
Funzi Giacomo	--	Daylesford
Galli Luigi	Italy	--
Gervasoni Antonio	Bergamo	Yandoit
Giani Giovanni	Italy	Daylesford
Giani Giuseppe	Italy	Daylesford
Giudicatti Agostino	Lovero [Sondrio]	Maldon
Giupponi Carlo	San Giovanni Bianco [Bergamo]	Melbourne
Invernizzi Ambrogio	Bergamo	Yandoit
Langlands & Co	Scotland	Melbourne
Lertora Antonio	Italy	Daylesford
Lucetich Francesco	Velosca [Milano]	Melbourne
Marca Giuseppe	Italy	Daylesford
Milesi Angelo	Lombardy [Region of]	Yandoit
Miolini Giacomo	Sondrio	Clunes
Monteagresti Michele	Florence	Walhalla
Moreschi Bernardo	Colico [Como]	Maldon
Morgan D. Tommaso	Wales	Yandoit
Nani Battista	Bergamo	Yandoit
Pallascio Domenico	Ticino [Canton of - Switzerland]	Yandoit
Pansura	Switzerland	Daylesford
Pedrini Vincenzo	Ticino [Switzerland]	Yandoit
Rees M. Guglielmo	Wales	Yandoit
Reghenzani Pietro	Teglio [Sondrio]	Maldon
Righetti Serafino	Switzerland	Daylesford
Rismondo Giorgio	Rovigno [Genova]	Melbourne
Serenofio Fortunato	Italy	Sandhurst
Serenzio Giacomo	Sondrio	Clunes
Tripp Margaret	England	Melbourne
Valli Francesco	Teglio [Sondrio]	Maldon
Valli Luigi	Teglio [Sondrio]	Maldon
Zampatti Tommaso	Lovero [Sondrio]	Maldon

Copies of selected pages from the above manuscripts can be ordered from the Italian Historical Society at \$3.50 per page including postage (maximum 3 pages).

OUR ACTIVITIES

CHILDSPLAY EXHIBITION

The exhibition of toys, games and photographs of children at play announced in the July-August 1995 issue of the *Journal* was successfully held at the Society's premises from September to November 1995. The 2000 and more school children who visited it, thoroughly enjoyed the activities and games prepared by the Italian Resource Centre.

The exhibition was also very well received by members of the Italian community, who came forward with many toys and games. Anna Fantini's paper dresses with buttons and buckles made of silver cigarette paper were a big attraction. Anna made them for an imaginary doll when, in the 1950s, at the age of 11 years old, she was taken out from school and sent to learn the trade of dress making in her town of Torre Annunziata, near Naples. Anna's dream of owning a proper doll never came true as her family could not afford such a luxury. Rag dolls were her only toys. As she grew up the doll's dresses were put away in a drawer. Years later they were packed with her most precious belongings when she migrated to Australia. The paper dresses will be deposited in the Italian Historical Society Collection of objects at the Museum of Victoria, along with the story of Anna's dream.



Anna with friends at the beach in Naples in 1954.

Domenico Stella, an enthusiastic contributor and supporter of the Society, very much contributed to the success of the exhibition by sharing with us memories of his childhood.

Domenico was 25 years old when he arrived in Melbourne in 1923 with his brother Cristiano. They came from the Highlands of Asiago, near Vicenza, where the bloodiest battles of WW1 were fought. By 1927, five of the seven Stella brothers were in Melbourne, some of them with their Italian wives whom they had sponsored out. In the 1950s the children of a sixth brother joined them.

Domenico and Cristiano were among the very first migrants to come to Australia from the Valley of Asiago. After a stint as labourers at some construction sites in the city, a few months in the coals mines of Wontaggi and a short period in Talbot as stone masons, Domenico and Cristiano began to work with their brothers at what most of their fellow migrants from the same area were best at: building roads, bridges and aqueducts all over Victoria.

Domenico responded to our request of material with the following letter:

It gave me great pleasure to read about the history of migrants as children in the 1920s. It brought back memories of my childhood during the first years of this century. My father had a big stable. During the freezing cold winters, it was the only place where we could enjoy some heat and spend our evenings for the so called 'filò'. I remember that more than twenty people sat next to each other near the animals. The men were mostly from the district of Zocchi, 2 kms from the town of Asiago. Many of them were seasonal migrants to Germany or France and some had been to America. Everybody told their story, including my father who for thirty years at spring time would cross the Alps and return home in autumn. They spoke about their hard life as migrants. Even those who had been to America would tell 'per guadagnare i dollari sono dolori', the dollars came with dolour.

It was 1902 and I was four years old. I remember a large stable poorly lit by a small oil

lamp, with my mother reciting the Rosary or spinning the hemp to make bed sheets and towels. The cloth was a bit coarse, but it lasted many years. My sister, who was fifteen years old, in the company of two cousins, knitted socks or embroidered her future dowry. It was there where the first loves would begin, in a corner where the dim light faded away. Some were masters at telling fables from "One Thousand Nights". They would tell of witches, ogres and of the "sanguanelo", the bogie-man, roaming the streets fifty years before ... and we children under the age of ten, were so scared to go out in the dark night!

What a simple and healthy life style! We were all together, entwined in a brotherly friendship! I

remember the school years, the best years of my youth! Now, at 97 years of age, 72 of which spent in Australia, in my sleep I very often dream to be young again swiftly walking on the mountains and in the valleys of my homeland. When I wake up in the morning I find myself to be in Australia, old and aching... but still in love with this world!

Thank you Domenico for this vivid and inspiring account of your childhood. Many of our "older" readers will identify with your experiences and would want to join us in wishing you many more years of happiness in this crazy world. Ciao!



From left, top row: Cristiano and Domenico Stella with their brothers Valentino, Ilario and Giacometto shortly before their departure for Australia in 1923.

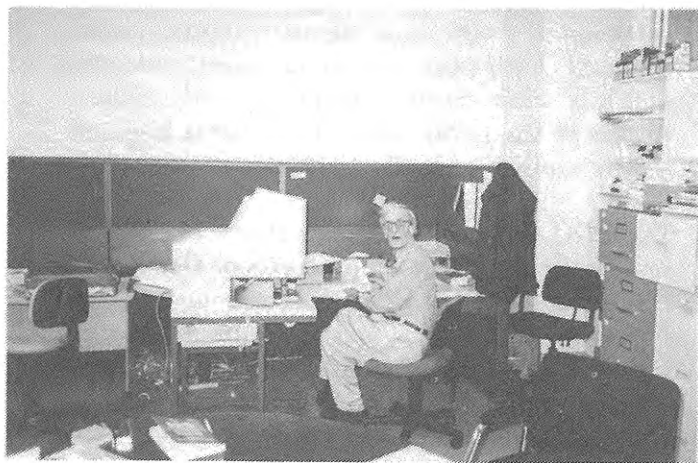
NEWS

INDEXING OF ITALIAN DIPLOMATIC ARCHIVES

Work on the compilation of an index and a summary translation of the contents of the Italian Diplomatic Archives (1855-1940) commenced last February. Much of the material drawn from the nineteenth century is in manuscript and sometimes in French, which was the language used in diplomatic circles among officials of different origins. The first Italian consul posted in Australia was Consul Biagi, who arrived in Melbourne in 1865. Until then, the interests of Italy were represented in Australia by honorary consuls of British origins.

The project is financed by grant of \$10,000 received from COMITES, the advisory body of the Italian Diplomatic Authorities for Victoria and Tasmania on matters relating to the Italian community.

Dr Louis Green and Gerardo Papalia have been commissioned to undertake this huge task. Dr Louis Green is a distinguished historian and former reader in History at Monash University for many years. He is an authority on Italian Medieval history. Dr Green spent many years in Italy researching State and private Archives; his familiarity with handwritten documents and his excellent command of the Italian and French languages make him the perfect candidate for the task of indexing the earlier documents of the Diplomatic Archives.



Dr Louis Green at work on the Diplomatic Archives

Gerardo Papalia is an Australian born scholar who after graduating from Melbourne University in Italian and History in 1982, won a scholarship from the Italian Government to further his studies in Italy. During his permanence in Italy, he engaged in extensive research on relations between the Italian and the Australian Governments between the two World Wars, paying special attention to the activities of Italian diplomatic personnel in Australia. Gerardo's familiarity with the Diplomatic Archives of this period makes him ideally suited for the demands of this task. Gerardo now holds a post-graduate scholarship from LaTrobe University where he is carrying out further research on the above topic area within the ambit of a PhD.

2nd JUNE 1996: ITALIAN NATIONAL DAY AND 50th ANNIVERSARY OF THE PROCLAMATION OF THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC

The Melbourne Italian community celebrated this important event in grand style. The Great Hall of the Exhibition Buildings was hired to host a huge Festa on Sunday, 2nd June. The celebrations began with the Holy Mass to which community groups participated in their colourful regional costumes.

A concert of classical and contemporary music with local Italian performers, regional folk groups and a visiting group of opera singers from the Emilia-Romagna region entertained the visitors for the afternoon. Melbourne Italian Clubs prepared traditional foods such as *porchetta* and roasted chestnuts from Abruzzi, *polenta e baccalà* from Veneto, *arancini* and *cannoli* from Sicily and from many other regions.

Our umbrella organization, CO.AS.IT., was represented through an attractive display of Italian regional costumes and objects mounted by the Italian Resource Centre, whilst the Italian Historical Society displayed photographs from its collection and original documents and objects relating to the Second World War.

FAMILY HISTORY

DOCUMENTING POST WAR MIGRATION

by Clare Gervasoni

Research your family's immigration BEFORE it is too late !

After years of researching my family's history, I realise the importance of keeping good records of family events. What could be more important than leaving the country of ones birth, and starting a new life in a new country? Unfortunately there are aspects of history relating to my great great grandfather, including his migration story, that are lost forever because no one thought to keep records.

My ancestor arrived in Australia in 1861, and although I have discovered interesting information concerning his life in Australia, I can uncover little regarding his departure from Italy and his journey and arrival in Australia. After many attempts I have been unable to locate him on the shipping lists. Using details from his naturalisation certificate, I believe he was listed on a particular ship as *steerage* along with ten others, but after 134 years I will probably never be able to find out for certain.

Whilst attending a talk by Don Grant at the Public Record Office (PRO) in Melbourne, I realised that while it was too late for me, many descendants of post-war migrants are in a perfect position to ask living relatives for information regarding their migration to Australia. This can simply be achieved by recording directed conversations onto audio or video tape, as well as collecting documentation relating to the migration, including passports, advertising, photographs, type and length of travel, reactions on leaving Italy and arrival in Australia, and so on.

Once you have collected as much history as possible from your living relatives, the next step is to use the PRO records. The PRO preserves records created by government departments and authorities. Public Record Offices are listed in the telephone book. In Victoria they are located in Melbourne, Laverton and Ballarat.

Accessing PRO records can clarify issues, jog the memory or determine whether the memory has been playing tricks. The following is a selection

of Victorian records regarding migration open to researchers:

No Date	Return of Outward Shipping Laverton, (Accession No.) VPRS 949
1961-1979	Air Flight Nominal Roles Laverton, VPRS 5980
1947-1976	Shipping Nominal Roles Laverton, VPRS 5979
1946-1983	Central Card Index (white) Laverton, VPRS 5982
1946-1983	Central Card Index (Blue) Laverton, VPRS 5975
1880-1924	Index Of Inward Shipping Laverton, Ballarat, City, VPRS 3503

To protect confidentiality of the living, some records pertaining to immigration are closed to the public. If you need further information contained in closed files you may be able to access them through the Freedom of Information Act. The PRO Reference Archivist can give you advice on this, but in most cases only the person who the records are about can obtain information.

The following records are CLOSED to public access:

1976-1981	Employer Nomination files, Laverton, VPRS 5977
1947-1976	Sponsor/Applicant Schedules Laverton, VPRS 5978
1947-1976	Group Nomination Files Laverton, VPRS 5976
1946-1981	Personal Nomination Files Laverton, VPRS 5975

There are other records available at the PRO including records pertaining to probates, land settlement, court cases, schools, mining, police, inquests, local government, hospitals, adoption and any other record made by a public office. Access to the public Records Office is free and staff members are very helpful.

The PRO is open 8.30 - 4pm Mon - Fri and the last Saturday of the month (except Dec and Jan) For a full listing of PRO records consult *List of Holdings 1985 (1994 Reprint)* published by the Public Record Office.

Do it now, you may not have the chance tomorrow!

A NOTE ABOUT COPYRIGHT

by Mark Donato

The following information is intended as a guide to assist readers who may use Copyright material, it is not comprehensive. The intention of Copyright is to reward and protect authors and creators. For more information about Copyright contact: Australian Copyright Council, Suite 3, 245 Chalmers Stret, Redfern NSW 2016. Telephone 008 266 103.

Of particular relevance to members of the Italian Historical Society is the use of the Birth, Death and Marriage records. The following letter from the 'Department of Justice, Victoria Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages' was published in *ANCESTOR Quartely Journal of the Genealogical Society of Victoria*, Vol 22, No 7. Since many of our members are involved in genealogical searches, we reproduce it here with their kind permission.

Dear Editor:

Copyright of Registry Records - Possible infringements of COPYRIGHT which have recently been brought to the attention of the Registry.

For clarification of this issue please note the following paragraphs which you may also wish to bring to the attention of your readers.

CERTIFICATES

Since the advent of multi-entry certificates produced from microfilm of the original registers, many genealogical societies have established holdings of 'unrelated certificates'.

These certificates are indexed and information supplied to enquirers upon payment of a nominal fee.

The Registry does not object to the collection and indexing of such 'unrelated certificates' as a reference source for members who may take notes from the collection.

Copyright to the information contained in the certificates is however vested in the Crown, and to photocopy the certificates for sale is a breach of copyright.

There is also no objection to the use of pre-printed forms for the purpose of providing handwritten or typed transcripts to members seeking information from the collection.

Where researchers wish to publish a facsimile of a birth, death or marriage entry in any family history publication, permission to publish is required from the Registry.

Permission will readily be granted if the publication is to be sold at a price which constitutes no more than a reasonable cost recovery.

If the print-run of a publication and its pricing structure is such that a profit is expected to be made, then a commercial agreement with the Registry needs to be negotiated.

BIRTH DEATH AND MARRIAGE INDEXES:

The indexes to births, deaths and marriages are compilations and are protected as literary works under the Copyright Act 1968. The Act provides in s.38.(1) that Copyright is infringed by a person who without licence of the owner of the Copyright sells, lets for hire, or offers or exposes for sale or hire, an article which the person knew, or ought to have known, was subject to Copyright.

Individuals or organisations who are offering for hire the Victorian Pioneers Index (microfiche or CD-ROM), or other birth, death and marriage microfiche indexes, are thus infringing copyright and could be subject to legal proceedings.

Indexes, whether in microfiche or CD-ROM format, are sold to established lenders such as libraries and Genealogical Societies for the express use of their members on a non-profit basis.

If any fee is charged for use of the indexes by members or non-members, such as a fee should be cost recovery only and not for any profit making purpose.

Yours sincerely

*Andrew Levens, General Manager,
Registry of Birth, Deaths and Marriages.*

To summarise, in essence the Registry allows birth, death and marriage information to be typed or handwritten but a photocopy of the record for sale is a breach of Copyright. Similarly the creation of a facsimile of a birth, death, marriage record for publication requires permission from the Registry. Permission will readily be granted if the price of the publication is such that it covers costs and the purpose of publication is not for profit.

REQUESTS OF ASSISTANCE

The Society continues to receive many requests of assistance. Whilst it is impossible to publish all the letters received, we endeavour to publish those we believe may be of interest to a broad number of our readers. For the others, we publish a summary of their research.

From: Patricia Brqome
40 Prahran Gve, Elsternwick, Vic. 3185.

I am researching the history of **55 Lonsdale Street**, Melbourne - now the restaurant *Marchetti's Latin*. There has been an Italian restaurant/wine bar at this location for almost 100 years, and I am interested in anyone who may have information about the families who owned these establishments. Perhaps someone was married there? The families involved are:
1896 - A. Bruni and Mary Bruni - wine cafe
1898 - Antonio Valli
1904 - John Rinaldi's Wine Shop
1910 - Paul Zanardi
1914 - Victor Marocco
1916 - Giuseppe Noli
1921 - Lillian De Campo : Andrea De Campo

From: Mrs Lois Gothard
9 James Ave, Kingston Beach, Tas. 7050

Benvenuto Vincenzo Rossi was born in 1860 in Casale Monferrato (Piedmont), arriving in Australia in 1887. He was a lithographer by trade, but became a notable rose grower in Victoria.

From: Maurice and Elisa Besso
190 Riverside Dr., Airds, NSW, 2560

Brother and sister, Mauricio and Elisa are desperate to fill in the missing links from their **Besso Family** tree. The following is what they already have. Can you help them?

1948 Gustavo Antonio Besso born in Gutierrez, Argentina
1919 Antonio Besso born in Bell Ville, Argentina
1879 Bartolomeo Besso born in (?), Italy
1843 Giovanni Besso born in Piscina [nearTurin/Piedmont]
1810 Michelle Besso born ?
1780 Giambattista Besso born in Pinerolo [Turin]
1747 Baron Lorenzo Besso born ?
1707 Giovanni-Battista Besso born in Ivrea [Turin]
1664 Unknown
1633 Unknown

1602 Unknown
1573 Giacomo Besso born in Rivarolo C. [Turin]
1543 Alessandro Besso born Rivarolo Canavese.

From: Clare Gervasoni
PO Box 52, Hepburn Springs, Vic. 3461
(Great, great grand-daughter of Luigi Gervasoni).

I am finalising a family history book on the **Gervasoni Brothers** and their descendants called *A Pocket of Italy in Australia: The Gervasoni Family of Bergamo and Yandoit*. The brothers arrived in Victoria during the goldrush, settling in the Daylesford area. I am interested in finding out the every-day activities of the Gervasoni such as: What did they eat and wear? How did they entertain? What was involved in every-day work for both the men and the women? What made them laugh or cry? How did they integrate with the English speaking community? Do you know of any family sayings and recipes? I particularly need to hear from descendants of Antonio and Carlo Gervasoni.

The book will endeavour to list complete family trees for each branch of the Australian family tree. To ensure that your family is listed correctly please contact me.

From: Brian O'Reilly
Ph. (03) 9484 2555

Seeking information on **Joseph Maddalena**, born in Daylesford, Victoria in 1860s, settled at Hastings fishing village in Victoria.

From: Shirley Gray
6 Bright Street, Eaglehawk, Vic. 3556.

Researching **Piscioli/Pacholli** family history. Brothers Antonio, Carlo and Vincenzo arrived in 1850s-1860s from Canton Ticino (Switzerland) and settled around Bendigo. Carlo married Margaret O'Grady in 1873 in Bendigo.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED

This list outlines the books received by the Society in the last six months by gift or purchase. The books may not necessarily be recent releases.

Bold Experiment: A documentary History of Australian Immigration Since 1945. Edited by John Lack and Jacqueline Templeton, Oxford University Press, 1995. \$29.95.

General collection of source material which describes and analyses the pattern of our immigration history since 1945, tracing the undermining and destruction of 'White Australia', and the goals, policies and programmes which have replaced it. It examines the development of immigration policy since 1945, the migrant experience, and the host response.

Redefining Australians: Immigration, Citizenship and National Identity. By Ann-Mari Jordens, Hale & Iremonger, Sydney, 1995. \$24.95.

The author's unrestricted access to Department of Immigration records shows how Australians have benefited from the Government's responses to the special needs of migrants, and how bureaucrats can be agents of cultural change.

Rabbits & Spaghetti: Captives and Comrades Australians, Italians and the War, 1939-1945. By Bill Bunbury, Fremantle Arts Centre Press, 1995.

Based on the author's popular ABC social history radio programs. It is a highly readable collection of historical snapshots, in both words and photographs, on the experiences and hardships of Australian POWs in Italy and Italian civilian internees and POWs in Australia.

Pioneers & Settlers Register for North Queensland to 1920. Compiled by Cairns & District Family History Society Inc., 1995. \$25.00.

A register of pre-1920 residents of the Far North, extending from the tip of Cape York, south to Cardwell and West to Normanton. Entries have been submitted by family or descendants of individuals. Also available from The Genealogical Society of Victoria.

Families & Cultural Diversity in Australia. By Robyn Hartley, Allen & Unwin, 1995. \$27.95

A survey of the characteristics of family life of key groups: Aboriginal, Anglo-Celtic, Chinese, Filipino, Greek, Italian, Latin American, Lebanese and Vietnamese. A good reference for anyone working with people from different backgrounds.

The Settlement of Yandoit Creek and the Gervasonis. By C C Culvenor, Jim Crow Press, 1995. \$25.00 plus p&p. Available from the Italian Historical Society.

A very thorough and well written account of the story of arrival and settlement of the Gervasoni brothers and their families in Yandoit Creek, Victoria.

High Art in a Foreign Tongue: Adelaide Ristori's 1975 Australian Tour. By Tony Mitchell, University of Queensland, 1995. \$10.00 plus p&p. Available from the Italian Historical Society.

An English translation of the Australian sections of the travel diary of General Bartolomeo Galletti, who accompanied the great Italian tragedienne Adelaide Ristori and her company on a season of theatre in the Australian colonies in 1875. Galletti gives his observations of colonial life in New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia, with his opinions and observations on people, politics, places and prices. The book includes and historical Introduction plus selections of Reviews from the Australian Press.

Italians in New South Wales: a guide to archives in the Mitchell Library. Compiled by James Andrighetti, State Library of New South Wales, Sydney. \$30.00.

This excellent *Guide* lists private archives collected up to 1994 through The Italians in New South Wales Project, an ongoing joint venture of the State Library of New South Wales and the Italian Historical Society (NSW). The *Guide* covers mainly records of the twentieth century and the personal papers of individuals from all walks of life predominate. A must for anyone researching the history of the Italian community in New South Wales.

I.H.S. Journal - Guidelines for Contributors

1. The Journal of the Italian Historical Society is produced for a general readership and preference will be given to articles which increase an understanding of the history of Italian immigrants and their descendants in Australia.
2. The IHS Journal is published twice yearly. The deadline dates for articles for each issue are:
 - June issue - 30th April.
 - December issue - 30th October.
3. The IHS Journal accepts unsolicited articles but may decline publication for various reasons. Articles are equally welcome from both professional and amateur historians and writers.
4. The IHS Journal does not pay for contributions.
5. All materials submitted may be subject to editing.
6. Articles should normally be submitted on white A4 paper, typed with double spacing on one side. Contributors are also encouraged to submit work on IBM compatible disk or both. In general articles should not exceed 3000 words and should ideally be 1500-2000 words.
7. Articles should be accompanied by appropriate and clearly captioned illustrative material wherever possible. This may include clear photographs, maps, diagrams, drawings, or other materials such as advertisements, programs, tickets etc.
8. All material submitted for publication must be accompanied by permission to publish and must meet copyright requirements. This includes both textual and illustrative materials. Unless otherwise stated, the author/s of the material provided will be credited with copyright.
9. All articles should give sources and references and this additional material will be published where appropriate. These footnotes/endnotes should be grouped at the end of the article and may refer to sources or amplify material in the main body of the article. The reference numbers for endnotes should appear in the text at the end of sentences.
10. The bibliographic style favoured for citing books, based on the *Style Manual* of the AGPS is: (name of author), (name of book in italics or underlined), (name of publisher), (place of publication), (year of publication).
For citing journals: (name of author), (title of article), (name of journal in italics or underlined), (volume number and year), (page number/s).
11. Contributors should retain copies of all materials submitted. Illustrative material will be returned if requested.
12. Contributors should provide a very short personal description outlining current interests.