

NEWSLETTER
of the
ITALIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
CO.AS.IT. - VICTORIA

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER - NOVEMBER, 1990

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THE ITALIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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LA TROBE VALLEY CORRESPONDENT:

Mr. Damian Tripodi

About the newsletter

The newsletter aims to provide, to those who are interested in the history of the Australian-Italian communities, an outlet for the circulation of news, the exchange of information and the notification of future activities.

We welcome your suggestions for items to include in this newsletter, and invite readers to contribute newsworthy articles and short notes.

The Newsletter will be published four times each year. Subscriptions are available at \$10 per year, (postage included).

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TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOCIETY

This month the Society celebrates the tenth anniversary of its founding. Sir James Gobbo proposed the formation of an Italian Historical Society at the meeting of the Committee of Co.As.It. of 23 September, 1980, and the proposal was ratified at the Annual General Meeting of 16 December, 1980.

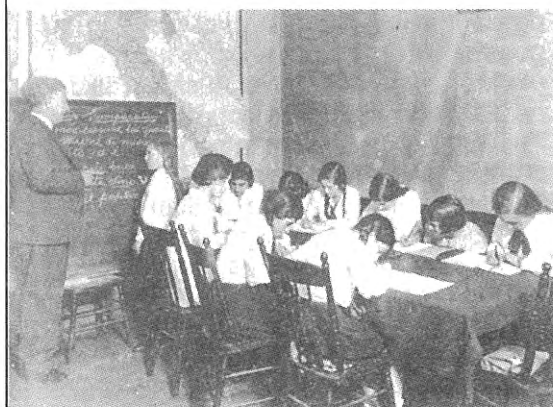
Since its inception, the Society has developed into a publicly recognised repository of records and sources on the history of Italian migration and settlement. This has been achieved through the personal contribution of material from Australians of Italian origin, the financial help of Co.As.It., the support of its chairman, Sir James Gobbo, and the commitment of all the staff who have worked for the Society during this period. Special acknowledgment goes to organizations and individuals who have sponsored various activities over the years. The Society has become a model for other ethnic groups and for Italian Historical Societies in other states in setting up similar collections and activities. Community support is vital for the continued work of the Society in building its collection, supporting its activities, and in sponsoring special projects.

Over the years a number of staff have participated in the growth of the Society, and this anniversary is an opportunity to record their contribution. Initially, Sarina Cassino worked in a voluntary capacity, and from September, 1981 was employed on a part-time basis. Livia Iacovino became a consultant in May, 1982, and Maria Tence joined in a part-time capacity in mid 1983.

In 1984 Mary Millemaci took on the task of co-ordinating the Victoria's Italians exhibition, the first major public activity of the Society, which was successfully held in the State Library of Victoria as part of the Victorian sesquicentenary in 1985. John Bono was also employed in the preparation of this exhibition, as was Gina Di Rita. Other Society members participated in the presentation of the exhibition in a voluntary capacity.

VICTORIA'S ITALIANS

1900—1945



An Exhibition by the Italian Historical Society and the State Library of Victoria for Victoria's 150th

March 5 — 31, 1985
Queen's Hall, State Library of Victoria

Catalogue of Victoria's Italians

Following Mary Millemaci's term, Ivano Ercole and Maria Tence continued the work. Later Mary Italiano assisted with the reproduction of photographs for the collection. Ivano remained until March 1984 and Maria until Laura Mecca's appointment in December, 1986 as full-time executive officer. Ilma Martinuzzi O'Brien was appointed Curator in July, 1987, and Gina Di Rita returned from late 1987 to the end of 1988. Marcella Manzini joined us for a time in 1990.

EXHIBITION VISITS SWAN HILL, ARARAT, MORWELL AND SALE

The opening of the exhibition on July 13th in Swan Hill coincided with the celebrations of the annual Festa della Madonna del Carmine, the patron saint of the local large Italian community who generously contributed to the organisation of the opening ceremony. Displayed for three weeks in the modern and appealing premises of the Swan Hill Regional Art Gallery, the exhibition has been visited also by many students in groups organised by their schools.

After Swan Hill the exhibition travelled to Ararat, where it went on show at the Ararat Gallery from 10th August to 23rd September. The official opening was quite an event with the participation of 250 people, many of whom came from as far as Horsham. Most people were surprised that there are so many people of Italian descent living in the district. Among the guests were descendants of Italian pioneers who arrived in Australia last century and settled in country Victoria. The display cases contained many original photographs and objects collected by the Society staff in the local Italian community. Of particular interest were the bridal accessories worn by Mrs. Josephine Pinzone when she married in Sydney in 1927.

In Morwell the exhibition was displayed at the La Trobe Valley Arts Centre from 5th October to 2nd November. People came from many parts of the La Trobe Valley to attend the opening function, and were addressed by Councillor Sheila Ferguson, Mr Damiano Tripodi and Society staff. The response to our request for local material to include in the exhibition was overwhelming. Four large display cases were filled with original photographs and objects. Many Italians arrived in the area in the 1950s and 1960s and their contribution to the building of the power stations and the development of the region was well documented in the material displayed.

Sale in central Gippsland now has the exhibition, where it is on show at the Regional Art Centre until 18th December. The official opening took place on 30th November, and people came from Bairnsdale, Mayfield and other surrounding areas for a very happy occasion. Again, much local material was included.

FURTHER TRAVELLING OF THE EXHIBITION IN VICTORIA

The remainder of the Victorian itinerary will include:

SALE 30 Nov - 18 Dec, 1990
Regional Arts Centre,
Civic Centre,
Macalister Street,
Sale.

BALLARAT	1 - 20 January, 1991 Ballarat Fine Art Gallery, 40 Lydiard Street North, Ballarat.
GEELONG	1 - 27 February, 1991 Geelong Art Gallery, Little Mallop Street, Geelong.
MILDURA	7 - 28 March, 1991 Mildura Arts Centre, 199 Cureton Avenue, Mildura.

EXHIBITION TOUR OF ITALY

An Italian version of the exhibition, called Italiani d'Australia was part of the programme of Australia Week in the Veneto, hosted by the Veneto Chamber of commerce and organised by the Victorian government. The exhibition opened in Asiago in the Town Hall on 8 July, and remained on display until 15 July. The Society's Chairman, Sir James Gobbo, addressed those present at the opening.

The exhibition then travelled to Malfa, Isole Eolie, during August, after which it visited Lucca in Tuscany, Sondrio in the Valtellina and is now at Casale Monferrato in Piedmont.



CONFERENCE

War, Internment and Mass Migration was the title of a conference held at the University of Western Australia on 21 to 23 September. This very successful conference was organised by Professor Richard Bosworth, and speakers attended from Italy, the United States and many parts of Australia. The Society was represented by Dr Ilma Martinuzzi O'Brien, who delivered a paper on "The Internment of Australian Born and Naturalised British Subjects of Italian Origin".

Ilma's research for this paper included a statistical analysis of a complete set of internment records of those of Italian origin, the "Service and Casualty Forms" which were kept for all internees. A data base was designed by her, and Delfina Sartori and Laura Mecca assisted by entering data from these records into a computer. This material is a valuable addition to the Society's resources.

LAUNCHING OF BOOK "THE HISTORY OF THE RINALDI FROM TEGLIO FAMILY"

Six generations of descendants of Giovanni Rinaldi from Teglio gathered in the Bealiba Hall for the launching of the book on their family history on 18th November. It was an emotional day for all those presents and for Laura Mecca from the Society who was invited to officially launch the book. At the gathering, many family members hitherto unknown to each other met, and family ties were strengthened.

FINAL PUBLIC MEETING FOR THE YEAR

On Sunday, 25 November, more than 40 attended a meeting on the migration to Australia of Swiss-Italians and Italians from the Valtellina. Tony Pagliaro of La Trobe University addressed the gathering on his research on Swiss-Italian immigration in the 19 century. Tony's lecture was followed by an address by Patricia Reedy. Patricia, a descendant of Giovanni Rinaldi from Teglio, spoke on the way the descendants organized

themselves into the Rinaldi Historical Society and compiled a family history. Finally, a speaker from Daventry Conservation Products gave a brief presentation on ways of storing old photographs and documents.

N.S.W. ITALIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Italian Historical Society of N.S.W. reports on their recent activities:

Seminar on the internment of Italians during World War II was held on Sunday, 26 August, at the State Library of N.S.W., at which Gianfranco Cresciani presented a paper, and some of those who were interned related their experiences of this period.

A training session for volunteers of the Italian Historical Society, the first in a series, was held at the State Library of N.S.W. on 30 July. The role of the volunteers is to seek out material in the community and assist in publicising the project. The session was conducted by Jim Andreghetti and Kay Young, the library's representatives in the joint project.

The Speaker of the N.S.W. House of Representatives, the Hon. Kevin Rozzoli, presided at a fund-raising dinner at Parliament House. In his speech, the Hon Mr. Rozzoli related the story of his Italian ancestors, to a gathering which was attended by many members and friends of the Society.

The Society contributed significant material on Italians in Randwick and district to an exhibition presented by the Randwick Historical Society during August and September.

Some of the records collected so far for the joint project with the State Library of N.S.W. include: the Vince Marinato scrapbook, which contains photos and documents about his life, family and happenings at Watson's Bay, where he lived; the diaries of G.L. Butta; the La Veneziana collection of letters and photographs concerning the activities of the Veneziana Restaurant; and the Mamma Lena (Mrs Gustin) collection of documents relating to her many years as a broadcaster in Italian in Sydney.

MY MOTHER: "LA MAMMA DEGLI ITALIANI"

by

Maria Santospirito Triaca



Mrs Santospirito and Members of the Archbishop's Committee for Italian Relief

My mother was first given the title of "La Mamma degli Italiani" in a newspaper article by an Italian and an American journalist who came to Australia to assess the assimilation of the Italian immigrants in this country. Frances Hagelthorn quoted the title in her article "Profile: La Mamma degli Italiani", *Advocate*, 28 September, 1967, page 25.

She also quoted from the article which described my Mother, Mrs Santospirito, as "one of the able assistants in engendering better Italian-Australian relationships and assisting assimilation". In the same article there is a tribute from Frank Galbally: "a lovely mother of a lovely family, Mrs. Santospirito was always ready and willing to help those who se need she knew and understood. She has stood well the test of true Christianity".

The Italian Government awarded her "La Stella della Solidarita" in recognition of her many years of welfare work in the Italian

Community. The award was presented to her by the Italian Consul Marchese Serafini at "Raheen", the residence of Archbishop Daniel Mannix.

My mother would say that she could not have done the work without the support and encouragement of Archbishop Daniel Mannix whose friendship she valued so much.

Her welfare work for the Italian community stemmed a long way back from the wonderful example of her own mother. Her parents Bartolo and Bartolina Virgona were Italian immigrants themselves and emigrated from the Eolian Islands, arriving in Australia in 1890. Her father was a fruiterer, as were many other Eolians. They settled first in Melbourne and later in Ballarat where my mother was born on 4 April, 1896.

They were a very religious, warm and sociable family and kept in close contact

with the small Italian community. My grandmother was a very compassionate, gracious and astute lady, and she helped many an Italian family to settle into the different environment in Australia. Soon after my mother was born, the family returned to Melbourne as Ballarat did not prove as rewarding as they thought, and they had lost a lot of money. There were four children, a son, Vincent, and three girls, Maria (Mary), Angelina, my mother, and Rosa who died at the age of 16 from diabetes. The girls went to school at the Catholic Ladies College close to Smith Street, Fitzroy, where they lived. The house is still in the family. My mother Lena proved a keen and aspiring student and should probably have gone on to University, but unfortunately she did not get the encouragement that she gave to her own children. After leaving school she went to work at the Central Telephone Exchange, and her salary helped to pay off their debts, as their father died at an early age.

The two daughters, like their mother, continued her welfare work assisting Father De Francesco, the Italian Chaplain in the 1920s and early 1930s. Father De Francesco's efforts for the Italian Community were limited because he was attached to the St. Ignatius Parish, and was obliged to do parish duties as well as attend to the needs of the Italian Community, so he must have needed to rely on helpers in the community.

In 1925 Father De Francesco celebrated the marriage of my mother to Antonio Santospirito, who was born in the Eolian Islands in 1892 and whose parents emigrated to Australia in 1897. When he married he was already a successful wholesale florist and was later referred to as the "flower king". They lived in 79 Bouverie Street Carlton, a house my father had built. They had three children, myself, and two younger brothers Gerard and Anthony.

We lived a fairly normal life I think, until the arrival of Father Ugo Modotti, who took the place of Father De Francesco as Chaplain of the Italian Community. I remember his arrival vividly because I was barely 10 years old, very shy, and in Fairfield Infectious Diseases Hospital along with several other Genazzano pupils, with

Scarlet Fever, when Father Modotti visited me. This vision swept in - a great, big, tall man, enveloped in a white medical gown and mask and a kind expression. That is, what I could see of it. He made a great impression on me which remains with me still.

After Father Modotti's arrival 79 Bouverie Street was never the same again. It virtually became "La Casa degli Italiani" as it was the centre for all the action and organisation in the Italian Community especially during World War II and the post war years of immigration and unemployment in the early 1950s.

During World War II Italians were not allowed to congregate in any one place except St. George's Hall, Carlton. This privilege was obtained through the auspices of Archbishop Dr. Mannix and through the help of the Hon. A.A. Calwell who was a wonderful friend to the Italians. The Archbishop Dr. Mannix Committee for Italian Relief was inaugurated because there was need for an organised body to assist Italian immigrants particularly during the war and soon after because of the sudden influx of large numbers of them.



Mrs Santospirito, left, and Mrs Sinelli at Bonegilla

My mother was the president of this committee for several years, c. 1938-1953 and she worked tirelessly to assist any Italian in distress whether it be emotional or financial, employment, accomodation or whatever. My mother would leave no stone unturned to help anyone in need.

She encouraged and helped migrants to sponsor their relatives in order to unite their families together again. She was always very grateful to Mr Calwell for his guidance and support and prompt attention to her enquiries and problems.

Often Mr Calwell would be in Canberra so this meant long conversations with Mrs. Calwell who became a great friend and they often talked until late into the night. This continued until they were fairly aged and ill-health prevented it.

In the early 1950s unemployment crisis there would be long queues inside our house and flowing outside, often up to 40 people. On one occasion the rooms were all occupied and I needed to do some sewing so I ended up wheeling our good old Singer sewing machine out into the back yard. Archbishop Little, who was Father Little then, remembers my mother constantly on the telephone endeavouring to procure employment for the throngs in the queue. I remember it too, only too well. My Mother would suggest that she and I would go shopping, particularly when I was shopping for my trousseau, an important time in a daughter's life. More often than not I would still be waiting for her at four o'clock not even being able to get a word in between telephone calls and

I would finally have to dash off by myself before the shops closed. My father had to put in an extra telephone line so that he could make his rather important business calls.

Apart from all the activity in the home, fundraising was also a very large part of the scene. During the War soft drinks must have been scarce because every Saturday we used to make up batches of coloured cordials in our large wash house (laundry they call it now) which we would sell at the Italian dances which the Archbishop's committee would organize every Saturday night at St. George's Hall, Carlton and later at the Cathedral Hall Fitzroy. Fund raising also included annual bazaars, raffles on a big scale, concerts, plays (some written by Father Modotti himself). I remember the Dante's Divine Comedy slides very well and the St. Agnes play Sir James mentioned in his address of 19th May 1988, but unfortunately I can't remember his part in it. Fund raising also included the big attraction of the year, the annual Italian Debutant Ball. I made my debut in the first one in 1946, although I was still at school, but I wanted to be in the first one. It was so exciting! I remember also some fun picnics in the hills, and some treats for the workers sometimes at our beach



Mrs Santospirito with Mrs Calwell at the Debutante Ball in 1947.

house. When I look back now most of the people who did the hard work are no longer with us. Oh! how I would like to be reminiscing with them now and express appreciation.

My mother and the Committee were also interested in the welfare of the prisoners of war and members of families interned and Italians from other countries who had been sent to Australia. We met some interesting people, for example an Italian professional couple from Kuala Lumpur who ended up living in our beach house and Italian families from Singapore. My mother was particularly concerned with the children of these people and where possible she was responsible for placing them in boarding schools. An Italian Army Officer was sent to Australia to investigate a mishap at a Prisoner of War camp. He was accommodated at our place and I still feel guilty for having scorched a silk shirt of his when I was helping my mother by doing the ironing - she was probably in the telephone.

After Father Modotti left Australia, the Capuchin Fathers took over the house in Power Street. Father Carlo di Matteo was in charge and my mother continued to help with her usual enthusiasm and one of the outstanding successful fund raising efforts was the concert organized at the Melbourne Town Hall in three weeks only, featuring the artists of the visiting Italian Opera Company.

My mother was also helping the Italian orders of nuns that were gradually arriving over a period of time. She was always at the Airport to welcome them and drive them to their new abode and did all she could to encourage them and support their specific activities. When the Cabrini nuns arrived she was the first president of the St. Benedict's Well-wisher's Committee and later when the new hospital was built she was the president of the Saint Francis Cabrini Hospital Ladies Auxiliary when it opened in 1958.



Presentation of cheque to Mother Candida of the Cabrini Hospital, 1948.



↑ THESE out-of-work Italian migrants were happy yesterday washing up after a banquet given them by the Italian Relief Committee. They were told that some of them would be given work if the committee bought a 1300-acre estate at Alexandria. (SEE STORY LEFT).

At yesterday's banquet, they ate hors d'oeuvres, spaghetti, stuffed veal and salad and fresh fruit.

They danced and sang national songs after they learned of the plan to buy the estate, which would achieve an ambition for many of them—the prospect of a job.

The Sun, 11/8/52

The Pastorelle Sisters received the same welcome and support and when the Daughters of Divine Zeal arrived she became a close friend of Mother Gennarina, the Mother Superior.

Her large correspondence kept any spare time she had occupied, and she often worked late into the night. Sometimes, she would be going to bed when my poor father was going off to the market. She wrote frequently to Father Pio for advice and prayers. She was a daily communicant and often went to more than one Mass. She had tremendous faith and must have been close to God because her prayers were often answered. She was happiest when praying for other people's intentions and helping those in need and always ready to give solace and comfort.

She died at the age of 87 on the 19th November 1983. At her Requiem Mass which was solemnly celebrated by Bishop Fox with eighteen priests on the altar - a wonderful tribute. Father Ron Pickering noted in his eulogy "she was a lovely lady. So utterly kind and lovingly concerned for friends and even casual acquaintances... whilst she could and whenever she should, Lena Santospirito radiated love, compassion and care for those in need. Her most outstanding ministry to Italian families is well known ... Her Home was a centre of

kindness and practical assistance ... I know full well that she would have me praise, as she often did to me, her husband Tony and children Maria, Gerard and Anthony who paid the consequent price of not neglect, but obvious deprivation of those little attentions less apostolic parents might give in greater measure to their own".

Sir James Gobbo in his address to the Italian Institute of Culture in 19th May 1988, called her "a living saint". I think anyone who knew her would agree with that, but I must admit it is not always easy to live with a saint. I remember once, when I was at one of the weekly Saturday night functions, I burst into tears when I thought of my father coming home after a hard day's work to a lonely house and a lonely dinner which was keeping warm on a bain-marie. I think my father was a saint too.

Whatever one says, I know that my father, my brothers and I appreciated the work my mother did and we were all very proud of her. I think we reaped manifold benefits from the wide experiences her example and her works exposed us to ... and I would not have it otherwise. It will be fitting to close with a quote from an anonymous priest "She was an example and a consolation to those who knew her and a quiet but eloquent apostle for the Lord she loved".

FAMILY HISTORY

Bette Maiuto, who has contributed to past issues of the newsletter, whose contribution we greatly value, has begun an Index of Italians and Swiss-Italians from the Victorian Birth Death and Marriage registers. This index is part of a larger project which Bette is undertaking with the Society. So far, Bette has completed the index for the 1860s.

For an enquiry fee of \$10, we will provide registration numbers and any other available information to members of the public who are interested in obtaining certificates from this index for their Family History Research. If you wish to obtain a certificate, having the registration number will save you half the cost of the certificate. The full cost of a certificate, as of December, 1990, is \$27.00. With the registration number, the cost is \$13.50.

While compiling the index, Bette has written the following notes highlighting some of the findings so far.

ITALIANS AND SWISS-ITALIANS IN VICTORIA IN THE 1860s Some occupations and places of residence.

by Bette Maiuto

Many men from all over the world were drawn to Victoria in the early 1850s for Gold but only small numbers of "diggers" were able to make a living at mining. By the mid 1860s some of these men had moved on to other gold areas in NSW and New Zealand. Others had married and settled down to make new lives for themselves in this young country.

In 1868 the very first Post Office Directory was published giving the name and profession of the main householder in each suburb or town in Victoria. Many of these were Italian and the directory gives us an idea of how they were earning a living and where they were residing.

There were large numbers of Swiss-Italians living in the Hepburn/Daylesford area, most of whom were married to Irish women. Judging by the number of men who gave their profession as Hotelkeeper, Publican, Wine maker and Beerseller, there must have been an hotel on every corner and in the middle of each block as well! Others were: storekeepers, dairymen, farmers, miners, carters, charcoal burners, wood cutters, blacksmiths, ironmongers, butchers, and shoemakers.

As in the case today, in the 1860s, the Italians were inclined to live near each other, so there were large communities of Italian families in the towns of Ballarat, Bendigo, Beechworth, Creswick,

Daylesford, Hepburn and Maldon. Occasionally, some listed their profession as something a little out of the ordinary for the average Italian in Victoria at the time.

One man, born in Naples, Mariano Scarpato, was a boatman at Port Albert in Gippsland. In those days there were no proper roads from Melbourne through to Western Gippsland, and it was a long arduous journey to travel to Gippsland by bush track on horseback. The easiest and quickest way was by Steamer 180 miles to Port Albert and then to your destination by coach, dray or horseback. This town was also the way "diggers" travelled to the rich goldmining town of Walhalla in central Gippsland, on foot or packhorse through dense and inhospitable bushland.

Sebastian Danelli with his wife Harriet Bagatti were married in Milan in 1858 and from 1859 lived in Brunswick, where all of their children were born. Sebastian gave his profession as Macaroni Manufacturer and the Gazette for 1865 states that there was in Brunswick a factory which made Macaroni and Vermicelli.

There was Francesco De Rogo who lived in Castlemaine with his wife Mary Ann Forster and family, and was a stable keeper in 1868.

Carlo Bravo was born in Switzerland and

had an Italian wife Sophia Guscetti. He gave his profession as gardener.

Giovanni Battista Abelo who born in Italy, married Catherine Jones who was born in Hobart. They lived in Collingwood and Giovanni was a tailor.

Then there was Luigi Veroli who was born in Italy, married to London born Emma Bond. He worked at the Carrara Marble Works in the city of Melbourne.

Also listed are G. Biagi, Italian Consul and

Carlo Avo Cossu, Italian Vice Consul. There seemed to be very few Italian ladies here at this time, and the only one listed in the directory is Mrs. A. D'Alberti, Dressmaker at Beechworth. There is no way of knowing without further research if she was indeed Italian or the wife of an Italian man. Most of the Italian men who took wives in Victoria at this time married Irish, Scottish or Australian born women. The Italian/Irish combination was the most common, possibly because of their religion and the traits shared by these two groups, but that is another story.

DID YOU KNOW?

This newspaper, published in Venezia in 1881, contains information about the participation of Italy to the 1881 International Exhibition which was held in the Melbourne Exhibition Buildings. The publisher, Olivieri e Sarfatti, was a shipping company trading with Australia. The newspaper lists all the Italian companies which won a prize at the exhibition. It also reports the death of the then Italian Consul, Cav. Luigi Marinucci, and translates the articles which appeared in the local press.

Sig. Carcano Capomonte
Thalassio

Anno II. Venezia, 17 Ottobre 1881. Num. 5

L'ITALIA A MELBOURNE

Organo dell' Impresa Olivieri e Sarfatti

per gli interessi commerciali fra l'Italia e l'Australia

Cent. 5

Agli Artisti ED INDUSTRIALI di Roma

Diremo poche parole perché desideriamo mantenere quella calma che altri non hanno mantenuto.

Dinanzi allo strepito, alle riu-
nioni, agli ordini del giorno, alle
insinuazioni seminate a larga ma-
no senza badare a chi e dove si
feriva, ai telegrammi di corri-
spondenti amici, alle inesattezze
dette certo in buona fede, ma ri-
petute da maliziosi e da calun-
niatori con disegno evidente di
nuocere alla buona riuscita del-
l'impresa Olivieri e Sarfatti, que-
sta ha opposto l'unico me-
zzo che le restava per salvare la
sua dignità e il suo decoro. Ha
pigliato di fronte le accuse e ha
telegrafato al Ministero d'Agricol-
tura e Commercio queste parole:

di bene che fecero, e ch'era loro
dovere di fare.

Siamo certi che essi non stat-
teggiano a Colombo in 64.^a; su-
rebbero semplicemente ridicoli;
ma vi possono dire con fronte
imperturbata: Noi osammo ciò
che pochi altri avrebbero osato,
ottenemmo ciò che pochi altri u-
vrebbero ottenuto e gli effetti
delle rinato relazioni fra i due
giovani stati non tarderanno a
farsi sentire. Quando nessun espo-
sitoro valeva partecipare noi ne
inducemmo in breve tempo 1000,
quando tutti gridavano alla specu-
lazione sbagliata noi arrischiavamo
200,000 lire, e l'Italia industria-
le, l'Italia artistica solo per opera
nostra vennero conosciute a Mel-
bourne, dove ottennero 500 pre-
mi e dove il nome italiano è tanto
glorificato adesso quanto prima
era oscuro. »

E dopo ciò staremo a vedere
la decisione dell'onor. ministro di
Agricoltura e Commercio al tele-
gramma dell'Impresa, risposta che
essa e noi desideriamo favore-

tisti, trovo che si adatti meglio lo
scherzevole.

Sembrano proprio di trovarsi di
fronte a un castello di carte da giuo-
co, che un soffio può rovinare.

Permettami quindi di mettere in
chiara tutto questo giuoco di fanta-
smagoria, col quale si vorrebbe ten-
tare di offendere quel po' di merito
che, voglia o non voglia, ci siamo ac-
quistati, a costo di fatiche e di sacrifi-
ci inevitabili.

Venendo al qua — come avrai no-
tato, nella famosa riunione, si trascu-
rarono affatto i capi d'accusa del tuo
ultimo articolo, dai noi vittoriosamente
combattuti, ad, per altro, ci si accusa di
un fallo di telegramma, sul quale non
mi fermo, imperocché *errare huma-
num est*.

L'accusa (permettami il bisticcio),
più accusa sarebbe quella, se fosse
vera, del maggior prezzo ricavato, in
confronto all'annunciato al sig. Ros-
setti.

Ecco come sta la cosa. A Melbourn
ne si vendettero certi mobili di cor-
na, appartenenti al detto signor Rossetti,
per lire sterline 90; e datogliene l'an-
nuncio, egli ci rispose che sapeva di
scienza certa, che il ricavo era stato
di lire 105. Forti della nostra coscien-
za, noi abbiamo sostenuto il contrario,
e il signor Rossetti, prese le più mi-

L'attuale Console Italiano A MELBOURNE MARCHESE DE GOYZUETTA

Non è venuto ancora il mo-
mento di svelare la condotta del
Consule Marchese De Gozzuetta.
Già ne abbiamo fatto un accenno
nella questione Marinucci, ma
questa non è che una delle pic-
cole cose che gli si potranno im-
putare: non vogliamo censurare
i lettori di qualche curiosa rive-
lazione, non vogliamo tacere al
Governo da quali funzionari è
servito al di là degli Oceani, non
vogliamo far a meno di gettare
su chi di ragione la responsabi-
lità di fatti succeduti e che avreb-
bero potuto far a meno di verifi-
carsi. Ma per far ciò con la se-
cura d'inattaccabili documenti e con
la parola di testimoni oculari e
auricolari attendiamo ansiosamen-
te l'arrivo a Napoli dei signori
Gustavo Sarfatti e Cosimo Rie-

Si ricorda!

Togliamo da una corrispondenza di
Aldo al Capitan Fracassa del 6 Ot-
tobre non senza ringraziarlo delle sue
cortesie parole che mostrano come non
tutti poi siano gli smemorati:

« Io non ho alcun interesse, diretto
né indiretto con la impresa Sarfatti.
Non sono espositore né figlio di e-
spositore. Ma non sono neppure uno
smemorato. Ricordo con quale entu-
siasmo nel 1879 fu accolta l'adita pro-
posta messa avanti dal cav. Giacomo
Sarfatti del quale vi presento il pro-
filo favoriti dall'amico Fra-Mauro.
Si trattava di far concorrere l'Italia
all'esposizione di Melbourne, le di-
fficoltà da vincersi erano o parevano
insormontabili.

Il cav. Sarfatti che nel defunto O-
livieri aveva trovato un capitalista cu-
raggioso, corse e ricorse l'Italia, la
Francia e l'Inghilterra; discusse con
ministri, con artisti, con industriali;
fondò un giornale per spiegare e di-
fendere il suo progetto; riesci a scuo-
tere l'incredulità, lo scetticismo più
indurito, e a presentare al ministero
una lista di 1000 Espositori.
Il ministero si accorse che non