

"To preserve and disseminate Italian language and culture"

ISSN 1441-8592 Periodico bimestrale del Comitato di Canberra della Società Dante Alighieri 2nd Floor Notaras Multicultural Centre 180 London Circuit Canberra City ACT 2601
Ph: 02 6247 1884 Email: dantecanberra@ozemail.com.au
Web page: www.dantealighiericanberra.org.au

Regular Events

Term 3 starts on Tuesday 11 September

Conversation groups on Thursdays 7 - 9 pm All present receive a free copy of the Italian newspaper *La Fiamma*

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Conversation sessions preceded by Dante Musica Viva rehearsals 5 - 7 pm

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ITALIAN TRIVIA AND SOCIAL EVENING

Thurs 20 Sept. at 8 pm

Spend a convivial hour with us learning all sorts of facts about Italy - eg its geography, history, cuisine, sport and culture - while enjoying snacks and the company of fellow contestants.

Win prizes! \$5 to participate. Form your own group

THE FILMS OF GIORGIO MANGIAMELE

Thurs. 18 Oct. at 8 pm

the only Italian film director to have worked in Australia will be presented by **GINO MOLITERNO**Head of ANU's Film Studies Program.
Mangiamele's films, set in Melbourne in the '50s,

have recently been restored by the National Film and Sound Archive

Venue for both events:

Function Room, 2nd Fl, Notaras Multicultural Centre 180 London Cct, Civic (entry via Civic Square)

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News from the Office



TO ALL MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE

The Dante Alighieri Society of Canberra Inc. office hours are:

From 10:30am to 2:00pm Tuesday to Friday

On Monday the Office will remain closed. We apologise for any inconvenience.

For enquiries please call the office on 6247 1884 or visit our website:

www.dantealighiericanberra.org.au

LIBRARY

The Dante library is open during office hours.
It includes the following sections:
Reading-Education-Literature-Literature/Youth
Geography-History-Art-Music-Cinema

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

President: Professor Franco Papandrea

Vice-Presidents: Yvette Devlin; Sue Hancock

Treasurer: Mario Rosi Secretary: vacant

Acting Secretary: Paul Merner

Committee members: Vittorio Beltracchi,

Cellina Benassi, Francesca Foppoli,

Franco Foppoli, Paul Merner, Orlando Di Iulio

Journal Editors. Cellina Benassi, Yvette Devlin

Note. The journal editors wish to acknowledge the assistance of the office administrators in compiling this issue.

Upcoming events:

11 September: Term 3 begins (see p.5)

20 September: Italian trivia and social evening (see p.1) **29-30 September:** Dante Alighieri Biennial (see p.3)

18 October: The Italo-Australian film director Giorgio

Mangiamele (presentation by Gino

Moliterno, ANU (see p.1)

28 October: DMV choir & Mandolin Orchestra per-

formance (see p.5)

ITALIAN LANGUAGE COURSES IN ITALY

The Dante Alighieri Society of Canberra offers its **financial members** access to Italian language courses in Italy at discount prices.

The Dante Alighieri Society of Camerino

(Marche region), for instance,

offers Australian students discounts of up to 46%

on their 2012 courses prices.

For only 922 Euros, you could have a four-week language and culture courses accommodation, cultural visits etc.

Excellent value!

If you intend to travel to Italy for an intensive course, contact the office for further details.

Dante Biennial Conference

Conferenza Biennale di Yvette Devlin

We are in the process of organising a conference of Dante Societies from throughout Australia. It will be held on **Saturday 29 September** at the Italian Embassy and you are invited to attend.

Proceedings will commence at 9 am and finish at 5 pm. Most of the morning will be devoted to presentations of their activities by representatives of the various Societies attending while the afternoon will predominantly take the form of a round-table discussion on commonalities and differences, issues of concern, and potential collaboration with other organisations.

There will also be a presentation on Dante in the morning and one on Italian culture in the afternoon plus a spot of entertainment during lunch.

Participants from out of town will join committee members and other conference participants at a conference dinner at the Southern Cross Yarralumla Yacht Club.

If you are interested in participating, please contact the office to obtain further detail and register. We need to firm up attendance by Friday 14 September for catering purposes.

The conference program can be found on our website.

The Dante Alighieri Society urges its members To support the Australia for Emilia-Romagna Earthquake appeal

The Italian community in Australia has launched a national appeal to aid the reconstruction of the Emilia-Romagna Region of Italy, which was devastated by a series of earthquakes in late May and early June. Three major seismic shocks (and a multitude of aftershocks) hit the region on 20 and 29 May and 3 June leaving 27 dead, over 420 with serious injuries and over 18,000 homeless. Hundreds of structures of historical significance as well as many churches, schools and civic buildings were destroyed or seriously damaged.

Several of the main Italian community associations in Canberra, including the Dante Alighieri Society, have established a local ad-hoc working group to organise and coordinate local fund-raising initiatives as part of the national appeal over forthcoming weeks. The working group is confident of a generous response from the Canberra Region Community. All funds raised in the national appeal will be dedicated to the reconstruction of one of the schools destroyed by the earthquake.

The Dante Alighieri Society will be assisting the earthquake appeal and would like to urge all members to participate in the local fund-raising initiatives and consider making a personal tax-deductable donation. Our members have always responded generously to similar appeals and we are confident they will do so again on this occasion.

To facilitate the collection of donations, a special collection box will be available Thursday evenings to those attending conversation groups and culactivities tural over the next few Personal. weeks. tax-deductable donations can he made at the Society's office or by contacting a member of the Committee.



LEARN ITALIAN THIRD TERM 2012

STARTING TUESDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2012

Enrolments close on Wednesday 5 September 2012 You *must* enrol in *advance* in person at the office, by email or by phone

Beginners, Pre-Intermediate, Intermediate and Advanced

(availability of various levels conditional on sufficient numbers enrolling)

10x2hr weekly sessions - 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm Tuesdays or Wednesdays Telopea Park School NSW Crescent, Barton

Full course fee: \$260.00

10% DISCOUNT TO CONTINUING STUDENTS

The office is located on the 2nd floor, Theo Notaras Multicultural Centre Website: www.dantealighieri.org.au - Email: dantecanberra@ozemail.com.au

Fantastic Music Event

The Dante Musica Viva Choir

Winners of the national eisteddfod 2012, multicultural choir section

&

The Canberra Mandolin Orchestra

will both perform Sunday the 28th of October at 2 pm Damiano Hall, Italo-Australian Club

Admission: \$15 (\$12 concession) - tickets at the door

Dante Alighieri Society - for the promotion of Italian language and culture Website: www.dantealighieri.org.au - Email: dantecanberra@ozemail.com.au

L'angolo della lingua

Language corner di Yvette Devlin

You are by now familiar with the expression *mi piace = I like* and also know that it can be singular or plural depending on whether what is being liked is single or plural eg *mi piace il gelato = I like ice cream* and *mi piacciono le pesche = I like peaches.*

You might not be aware that the same approach applies to a few other situations when you use verbs in the third person impersonal, singular or plural. The most common ones involve the verbs **volere** and **dovere**.

Here are a few examples

Si vorrebbero fare tante cose nella vita, ma non c'è mai abbastanza tempo.

One would want to do many things in life but there is never enough time.

Ci vuole molta pazienza con il bambino. One needs a lot of patience with the child. Si vedono dei tramonti spettacolari da qui.

One can see spectacular sunsets from here.

Non si devono mangiare troppi fichi e poi bere acqua perché si gonfia la pancia.

One should not eat too many figs and drink water because you get a swollen tummy.

Prima di morire si ricordano tutti i bei tempi passati.

Before dying one remembers all the good

times.

Da questa stanza si possono sentire tutti i rumori del traffico.

From this room one can hear all the traffic noises,

And on a different matter, watch out for 'falsi amici'- words that look similar in the two languages but in fact have different meanings.

Here are two of these

The English to occur is translated with succedere and not with the similar occorrere which in English would be to require/need something.

Similarly, succedere does not mean to succeed which instead translates as riuscire. Look at these sentences.

The same thing occurred in Canberra.

La stessa cosa è successa a Canberra.

He succeeded in his final exam.

È riuscito bene nell'ultimo esame.

Mi occorre mezzo chilo di farina per fare questa torta.

I need 500g of flour for this cake.

Un dubbio linguistico non vi lascia dormire sonni tranquilli? Scrivete a: dantecanberra@ozemail.com.au
Risponderemo ad ogni vostra perplessità!

L'angolo della poesia

Poetry Corner di Yvette Devlin



Guido Gozzano (Turin, 1883-1916)

Guido Gozzano was born in 1883 in Turin and died there in 1916 aged 32. His father had been a supporter of Mazzini, one of the three leaders in Italy's unification.

Suffering poor health for most of his life, a likely cause of his pessimism, he travelled to India and Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) in search of more suitable climates. He started law studies at university but did not graduate preferring instead to join like-minded poets' groups. He immersed himself in the works of Dante and Petrarca to refine his poetic sensibility. He is considered the last of the classical poets.

The following poem is found in a collection published in 1960 – *Le poesie* – *Gozzano*, which contains an introductory essay by another well-known 20th c. poet – Eugenio Montale.

L'ultima fedeltà

Dolce tristezza, pur t'aveva seco, non è molt'anni, il pallido bambino sbocconcellante la merenda, chino sul tedioso compito di greco...

Più tardi seco t'ebbe in suo cammino sentimentale, adolescente cieco di desiderio, se giungeva l'eco d'una voce, d'un passo femminino.

Oggi pur la tristezza si dilegua per sempre da quest'anima corrosa dove un riso amarissimo persiste,

un riso che mi torce senza tregua la bocca.... Ah! veramente non so cosa più triste che non più essere triste!

Here is my literal translation

The last unfaithfulness

(or the final disappointment)

Sweet sadness, yet not so many years ago you were with the pale young boy munching his snack, bent over his tedious Greek homework... Later on you were with the adolescent in his sentimental journey, blinded by desire when hearing a woman's voice, a woman's step. Today sadness too vanishes forever from this worn-out soul where a very bitter smile persists, a smile that makes my mouth endlessly wry ... Ah? Truly there is nothing sadder than not to be sad again.

Modi di dire Sayings di Francesca Foppoli

Trova il tempo Find the time di Yvette Devlin

IL BRACCIO/LE BRACCIA

Arm/Arms (Note the change of gender in the plural).

Quella signora col bambino in braccio è mia moglie.

That lady with a child in her arms is my wife.

Gli operai hanno incrociato le braccia. The workers went on strike. (crossed their arms FIG. to down tools)

Gli amici ci hanno accolto a braccia aperte. Our friends welcomed us with open arms.

Essere il braccio destro di qualcuno. To be somebody's right hand (wo)man.

Quando parla mi fa fare cadere le braccia. (S)he is very off-putting when (s)he speaks.

LA MANO

Hand

Mi dai una mano? Can you give me a hand?

Essere una persona alla mano. To be easygoing/affable/laid-back.

Stare con le mani in mano. To be idle/inactive.

Mario spende tutti i soldi che guadagna: ha le mani bucate.

Mario spends everything he earns: he is wasteful/extravagant.

(Money burns a hole in his pocket).

Paola abita in una strada fuori mano. Paola lives in a street out of the way.

Una mano lava l'altra. You scratch my back, I'll scratch yours.

Avere le mani in pasta. To have a finger in every pie.

Essere preso con le mani nel sacco.

To be caught red-handed.

Di recente ho ricevuto queste brevi riflessioni che vorrei condividere con i nostri lettori. Sono espresse in un italiano molto semplice.

C'è sempre un tempo per dare alla vita il valore d'essere vissuta.

Trova il tempo per pensare: è la fonte del potere.

Trova il tempo di ridere: è la musica dell'anima.

Trova il tempo per giocare: è il segreto dell'eterna giovinezza.

Trova il tempo per divertirti: è l'aiuto per vivere felici.

Trova il tempo di dare: la giornata è troppo corta per essere egoisti.

Trova il tempo per curare le amicizie: chi trova un amico trova un tesoro.

Trova il tempo per imparare: non è mai troppo tardi.

Here is my translation.

There is always a time to give life the value of having lived it.

Find the time to think: it's the source of power.

Find the time to laugh: it's your soul's music.

Find the time to play: it's the secret of eternal youth.

Find the time to have fun: it helps to live happily.

Find the time to give: the day is too short to be selfish.

Find the time to take care of friendship: he who finds a friend finds a treasure.

Find the time to learn: it is never too late.

Cenno storico

A bit of history di Yvette Devlin

Sono passati esattamente cinquant'anni da quando Papa Giovanni XXIII dichiarò aperto il Concilio Ecumenico Vaticano II nella Basilica di S. Pietro a Roma.

Era **l'11 ottobre 1962**. In seguito alla morte di Giovanni XXIII all'inizio di giugno del 1963, fu eletto Papa Paolo VI. Il nuovo Papa

It was precisely fifty years ago - on 11 October 1962 - that the Second Vatican Council (also known as Vatican II) was opened by the then pope (John XXIII) at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome.

This pope died less than a year later, in June 1963, but his successor (Paul VI) de-



Il Colosseo, uno dei simboli della Capitale italiana

decise di continuare il concilio che si concluse nel dicembre del 1965.

Gli scopi principali del Concilio erano di discutere questioni interne alla chiesa nonché le relazioni tra la stessa chiesa cattolica ed il mondo moderno su molti argomenti incluso l'ecumenismo e le altre fedi, il rinnovamento/aggiornamento e la liturgia.

Molti ritengono che 'lo spirito del concilio Vaticano II' sia di apertura al dialogo con gli altri.

cided to continue the council, which concluded its proceedings in December 1965.

The main aims of Vatican II were to discuss the church itself (define its nature and the role of the bishops) and relations between the Roman Catholic Church and the modern world on a range of issues including ecumenism and other religions, renewal and the liturgy.

Many believe that 'the spirit of Vatican II' is one of openness to dialogue with others.

I taly: from disintegration in late antiquity to reunification in 1861 A Presentation by Elisa Forneris Summary by David Wilson

On 19 July, Elisa, an intern at the Italian Embassy, standing in at short notice for Alessandro Giovine, the First Secretary of the Embassy, treated us to a fascinating whirlwind tour of 14 centuries of Italian history.

Elisa first set the scene with a brief summary of the decline of the Roman Empire, from its widest extent--and the height of its power—under the emperor Trajan in the 2nd century, to the disappearance of the Western half of the Empire in the 5th century. After the death of the emperor Theodosius I (379-385), the last to rule over both halves of the Empire, the previously intermittent split between the eastern and western halves became permanent. Although the eastern half survived for another thousand years as the Byzantine Empire, the western half rapidly succumbed to repeated invasions by Barbarian tribes from the north: Angles, Saxons, Franks, Goths, Visigoths, Ostrogoths, Huns and Van-Within 100 years it had fragmented into many separate kingdoms ruled by one or other of these tribes. At the end of the 5th century Italy was under the rule of the Ostrogoths.

As part of his attempt to re-establish the Empire in the west, the Byzantine emperor Justinian (482-565) invaded Italy in 535 and brought it completely under his rule in 554. Within 3 years of his death, however, Italy was invaded by the Lombards who established their rule in most of the Italian peninsula, although some regions in the centre and the southern extremity remained in the hands of the Byzantines. During this

period, the continuity of Roman civilization—which had survived all the previous invasions—was finally broken, and the loosely connected regions of the Lombard kingdom retained no sense of being parts of a unified Italy. Concerning this, Elisa made the interesting observation that it was through this fragmentation that the seeds of the campanilismo which remains such a remarkable feature of modern Italy were sown. During this period, the western branch of the Christian church, by virtue of almost alone having preserved what remained of classical science and literature, increased its power and prestige, and its head, the Pope, began to acquire temporal as well as spiritual authority. In the middle of the 8th century the Franks intervened on the side of the Pope in a conflict with the Lombards, and forced the latter to cede territory extending from Rome to Ravenna to the control of the Pope, who thus became the ruler of an independent principality known as the Papal States.

After the death of Charlemagne, in 814, political authority in Italy was again fragmented into many separate centres, none of which exercised control over any appreciable distance. The Arabs conquered Sicily, and were ravaging the south, and by the end of the 9th century Italy was in a state of chaos, which persisted until Otto the great had established the Holy Roman Empire and incorporated central and northern Italy into it. Otto was crowned Emperor by the Pope in 962.

I taly: from disintegration in late antiquity to reunification in 1861 Continued...

In the middle of the 11th century the Normans invaded the south of Italy, wresting Sicily from the control of the Arabs and the southern tip of the Italian peninsula from the hands of the Byzantine Empire. The north remained under the loose control of the Pope and the Holy Roman Empire, whose struggle for supremacy over the next two hundred years ended with the destruction of imperial authority in Italy. During this period, several coastal cities—the principal ones being Amalfi, Genoa, Pisa and Venice—prospered through trade by sea, established powerful navies, achieved independence as so-called maritime republics.

Starting from the fourteenth century, the Renaissance in Italy saw the rise of numerous independent city states in the north. But by the end of the 15th century, through either conquest or amalgamation, the political power in Italy had been consolidated into the hands of five great states—the republics of Florence and Venice, the Papal States, the Duchy of Milan and the Kingdom of Naples—and a few lesser ones.

From the 16th century onward, Italy was increasingly ravaged and dominated by foreign invaders. Spain achieved control over much of the Italian peninsula in the middle of the 16th century, and subsequent wars between the European powers saw the balance of power over various parts of Italy shift between the French, Spanish, Savoyards and Austrians.

Ideas inspired by the French revolution in the late 18th century led to the establishment of many reform-minded clubs and secret societies in Italy, and sowed the seeds of the Risorgimento. In 1796, a French republican army under the leadership of Napoleon, invaded Italy, defeated the Austrians, and subdued the Papal States. In the following year, the Cisalpine and Ligurian Republics were established under French auspices in the north, and in the two years after that, the Papal States became the Roman Republic, and the Kingdom of the Two Sisouth became in the the Parthenopean Republic.

Although Napoleon's initial successes in Italy were soon reversed, he reestablished his control over Italy after declaring himself emperor of France. The northern and central parts of Italy were successively incorporated into the French empire, and the south became the Kingdom of Naples under kings appointed by Napoleon.

After Napoleon's defeat in 1815, the Congress of Vienna re-established the foreign domination of Italy in much the same form it had taken before the Napoleonic invasions. However, the idea of Italian independence from foreign domination had now taken firm root in the minds of the educated middle classes, and the *Risorgimento* was well under way, culminating in the wars of Independence of 1848-1866 that produced the independent Kingdom of Italy.



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DANTE ALIGHIERI SOCIETY 2012 CALENDAR

FORMAL CLASSES (6:00 - 8:00 pm Telopea Park School)

Term 1 Tues 14/Wed 15 Feb to Tues 17/Wed 18 Apr (10 wks then a 5-week break)

Term 2 Tues 29/Wed 30 May to Tues 31 July/Wed 1 Aug (10 wks then a 5-week break)

Term 3 Tues 11/Wed 12 Sept to Tues 13/Wed 14 Nov (10 wks)

THURSDAY CONVERSATION GROUPS (7:00 - 9:00 Function Room, NMC)

Term 1 16 Feb to 19 Apr (10 weeks). Then a 5-week break (26 Apr, 3, 10, 17, 24 May)

Ferm 2 31 May to 2 Aug (10 weeks). Then a 5-week break (9, 16, 23, 30 Aug and 6 Sept)

Term 3 13 Sept to 15 Nov (10 weeks) (Total: 30 weeks but note that on final night, 15 Nov, there will be no conversation)

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES (8:00 - 9:00 pm Function Room, NMC)

1 March Dante, his poetry and love (Mario Serenellini & Maria Giannini)

19 April Italian society during the turbulent sixties and seventies (Elisabetta Nadalutti)

21 June The great Renaissance painter Raffaello Sanzio (Gordon Bull, ANU)

19 July An overview of Italy after the fall of the Roman Empire and before unification (Alessandro Giovine, Italian

Embassy)

20 September Italian trivia competition and social evening

18 October The Italo-Australian film director Giorgio Mangiamele (Gino Moliterno, ANU)

15 November End-of-year function: Dante Musica Viva; ANU student awards; cooking competition; refreshments

AGM 5 April (8:00 - 9:00 pm Function Room, NMC)

CHOIR REHEARSAL

Every Thursday from 26 Jan to 29 Nov (5:00 - 7:00 pm Function Room, NMC)

Dante Alighieri Society of Canberra Inc. One-Year Membership Dante Alighieri Society of Canberra Inc. Receipt No..... PO Box 979 CIVIC SQUARE ACT 2608 Subscription for membership for one year commencing 1/1/2012: ☐ CONCESSION \$15 (student/pensioner) □ INDIVIDUAL \$30 ☐ CHOIR \$10 (in addition to membership fee) (PLEASE PRINT) Surname Given Name (s) AddressPC..... Phone (h) (w) (mob) E-mail address Do you prefer to receive the newsletter by email? Yes/No Is this a renewal? Yes/No Are you interested in assisting with the activities of the Society? Yes/No I agree to abide by the rules and regulations of the Dante Alighieri Society. Copies are available from the Dante office on request. SIGNED......DATE..... Please make cheque payable to "Dante Alighieri Society of Canberra Inc." or deposit at the National Australia Bank Account name: Dante Alighieri Society BSB: 082 902 A/c No: 515 003 825 Please include your surname and initial as the reference when paying by EFT or send the deposit slip with your membership application form. Your subscription will be completed only when payment confirmation is received.