

Canberra

Dante

Review

"To preserve and disseminate Italian language and culture"

March-April 2013

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

Conversation groups
on Thursdays 7 - 9pm

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

Inside

- News from the office 2
- Modi di dire 3
F. Foppoli
- L'angolo della lingua 3
Y. Devlin
- L'angolo della poesia 4
Y. Devlin
- Cenno storico 5
Y. Devlin
- Dante at the National
Multicultural Festival 6
Y. Devlin
- Some things change... 7
Y. Devlin
- Pasqua in Italia 8
A. La Cavera
- Autumn concert by
the Dante Musica Viva choir 9
- 2013 calendar of activities 10
- It's time to renew
your membership! 12

2013 MARKS THE 700TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE BIRTH OF BOCCACCIO,
ONE OF THE THREE FATHERS
OF THE ITALIAN LANGUAGE

GINO MOLITERNO
(Head of Film & New Media Studies at the ANU)
will explain

BOCCACCIO'S PLACE
IN ITALIAN LITERATURE
at 8 pm Thursday 7 March

AND WILL SHOW SCENES FROM
PASOLINI'S FILM
THE DECAMERON
(Boccaccio's major work)
at 8 pm Thursday 18 April

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

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, Youth,
Geography, History, Art, Music, Cinema

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

President: Professor Franco Papandrea

Vice-Presidents: Yvette Devlin; Sue Hancock

Treasurer: Mario Rosi

Secretary: vacant

Committee members: Vittorio Beltracchi,
Cellina Benassi, Francesca Foppoli,
Franco Foppoli, Orlando Di Iulio

Journal Editors: Cellina Benassi, Yvette Devlin

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

- | | |
|----------|---|
| 7 March | Conversation groups followed
by a talk on Boccaccio (<i>see p. 1</i>) |
| 14 March | Conversation groups |
| 21 March | Conversation groups |
| 24 March | Fogolar Furlan Annual Picnic
(<i>see below</i>) |
| 28 March | Conversation groups |
| 4 April | Conversation groups |
| 11 April | Conversation groups |
| 14 April | Autumn concert by the Dante
Musica Viva Choir - 2:30pm
At the Italo-Australian Club |
| 18 April | Conversation groups followed
by film <i>The Decameron</i>
(<i>see p. 1</i>) |

FOGOLAR FURLAN ANNUAL PICNIC

Join the Friulani and their friends
at their popular annual picnic usually
attended by some 300 people

Family friendly: children's entertainment

Where: Black Mountain Peninsula
(end of Garry Owen Drive)

When: Sunday 24 March 2013

What: Mass at 11 am; then lunch (\$20) which
includes steaks, Friulan sausages, salads,
polenta and cheese

No need to book: just turn up but
bring your own chair.

The **Dante Musica Viva** choir
will give a performance

Modi di dire

Sayings

di Francesca Foppoli

After white we move to black. Note what happens when we put them together.

Not so black and white!

Per un paio di settimane dopo le vacanze Davide era d'umore nero.

For a couple of weeks after the holiday, David was really cranky.

È una famiglia di pessimisti: vedono tutto nero.
It is a pessimist family: they can only see doom and gloom.

Ora sto bene, ma quando mi ha lasciato ho passato un periodo nero.

I am fine now but when (s)he left me, I went through some miserable time.

È terribile che ci sia un fatto di cronaca nera ogni notte.

It is terrible that a crime takes place every night.

Molti studenti che lavorano in ristoranti vengono pagati in nero.

Many students who work in restaurants are paid cash-in-hand.

Non farci caso, è la mia giornata nera.
Don't take any notice, it's my bad hair day.

Ho sbattuto contro il palo e mi sono fatto un occhio nero.

I hit the post and ended up with a black eye.

Gli occhi di Gianna sono neri come il carbone.
Gianna's eyes are as black as coal.

Sebbene sia illegale, molta gente acquista merci al mercato nero.

Although it is illegal, many people buy merchandise on the black market.

Mettiamo le nostre idee nero su bianco.
Let's get our ideas down in black and white.

“L'Artista” è un film in bianco e nero.
“The Artist” is a black and white movie.

L'angolo della lingua

Language Corner

di Yvette Devlin

The Italian words *molto/tanto/troppo/poco* can be used as adverbs (words that modify or limit a verb, eg ‘well’, ‘very’) or as adjectives (words that describe a noun, eg ‘beautiful’). In the former case, the words do not change whereas in the latter they agree with the noun that they refer to. Check out the following examples.

Ho mangiato molto/tanto/troppo/poco.
I've had a lot/too much/ little to eat.

Gli operai non chiedono molto – solo una giusta paga.

The workers are not asking for much – just a fair wage.

Ho una giornata molto impegnativa domani allora non ci possiamo incontrare per pranzo.

I have a very busy day tomorrow so we cannot meet for lunch.

Sono molto occupata al momento – rispondi tu al telefono.

I'm very busy at the moment - you answer the phone.

Abbiamo visto molti/tanti fiori al festival.
We saw many/a lot of flowers at the festival.

Quella signora ha pochi amici perché non è un tipo simpatico.

That lady doesn't have many friends because she's not a nice person.

In Italia ci sono troppi partiti politici.
In Italy there are too many political parties.

La bambina ha mangiato troppe paste e adesso ha mal di pancia.

The little girl has had too many pastries and now she's got a tummy ache.

Ho molta fame, sete, paura (fem. nouns); molto freddo, caldo, sonno (masc. nouns).

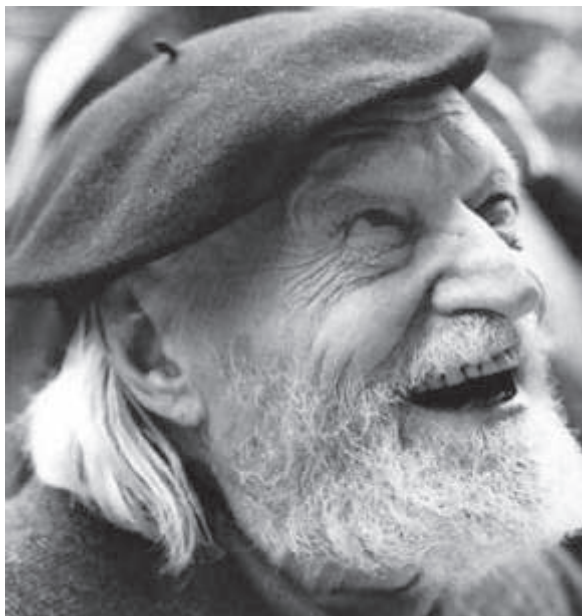
I am very hungry, thirsty, afraid; very cold, warm, sleepy [agrees with the gender of the noun. Note also that in English you use an adjective whereas in Italian you use a noun].

La fidanzata di Gianni è molto alta e bella.
Gianni's girlfriend is very tall and beautiful.

L'angolo della poesia

Poetry Corner

di Yvette Devlin



Giuseppe Ungaretti was born in Egypt in 1888 and died in Milan in 1970

Giuseppe Ungaretti was born in Egypt in 1888 and died in Milan in 1970. He is one of Italy's greatest poets of the 20th century. Together with his contemporaries Montale and Quasimodo, Ungaretti embraced a new form of symbolic, lyrical poetry (hermeticism) in which structure, syntax and punctuation were abandoned.

Ungaretti was primarily a poet but also an essaying, journalist (including foreign correspondent for *La Gazzetta del Popolo*) and academic. Politically, he was closely associated with Mussolini's fascism and later much criticised for this affiliation. He became Professor of Italian at São Paulo University in Brazil, and then Professor of Modern Literature at the University of Rome.

FASE

Cammina cammina
ho ritrovato
il pozzo d'amore

Nell'occhio
di mill'una notte

ho riposato

Agli abbandonati giardini
ella approdava
come una colomba

Fra l'aria
del meriggio
ch'era uno svenimento
le ho colto
arance e gelsumini

Here is a translation by Kevin Hart (in *The buried harbour*).

THAT TIME AGAIN

Marching, forever marching
I've stumbled on
love's well again

In the eye
of a thousand and one nights
I've camped

To the deserted gardens
she came
like a dove

In the swooning air
of noon
I picked for her
oranges and jasmine

ITALIAN LANGUAGE COURSES

The Dante Alighieri Society of Camerino (Marche region) offers Australian students discounts of up to 46% on their 2013 courses prices.

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

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

Cenno storico

A bit of history

di Yvette Devlin

21 April is generally accepted as marking the **foundation of Rome**. The likely year is 753 or 752 BC.

There is much debate on 'historical' documents and legends around the foundation of the eternal city. The best known is the legend according to which twins Romulus and Remus, abandoned at birth on the Tiber, were fed by a she-wolf and later adopted. As adults, the brothers quarreled and Romulus killed his brother. Romulus is said to have ruled over the new city for decades. Recent archaeological discoveries on Palatine Hill support the legend: a series of fortification walls can be dated to the middle of the 8th century BC, when according to legend Romulus plowed a furrow around the Palatine Hill in order to mark the boundary of his new city.

The name of the city is generally considered to refer to Romulus. An alternative view is that the name Romulus (= the little boy from Rome) is a derivation of the word Rome.

The Capitoline Wolf (Lupa Capitolina) is a bronze sculpture of a she-wolf suckling twin infants, inspired by the legend of the founding of Rome. It has been housed since 1471 in the Palazzo dei Conservatori on the Campidoglio (the ancient Capitoline Hill)



Piazza del Campidoglio on the top of Capitoline Hill with the façade of Palazzo Senatorio, which houses the Rome City Hall

Il **21 aprile** è generalmente accettata come la data ufficiale della **fondazione di Roma**. L'anno potrebbe essere il 753 oppure il 752 AC.

Ci sono molte teorie e leggende sulla fondazione della città eterna. La più accettata è la leggenda secondo cui i gemelli Romolo e Remo, abbandonati alla nascita, furono allattati da una lupa e poi adottati. Una volta adulti i fratelli litigarono e Romolo uccise Remo. Si pensa che Romolo abbia governato la nuova città per decenni. Delle scoperte archeologiche recenti sul Colle Palatino sembrano sostenere questa leggenda: sono stati trovati dei muri fortificati che risalgono all'VIII secolo avanti Cristo quando, secondo la leggenda, Romolo scavò un solco attorno al colle per segnare il confine della nuova città.

Si vuol pensare che il nome della città derivi da Romolo. Ma c'è chi pensa che sia il nome Romolo a derivare dal nome della città (in latino Romolo potrebbe significare 'bambino di Roma').

The Dante Society of Canberra at the National Multicultural Festival

by Yvette Devlin



The Dante Musica Viva choir at the National Multicultural Festival

Once again the Dante Society participated in the National Multicultural Festival (NMF) held on 8 -10 February in Civic. It is unfortunate to note the almost total absence of Italian associations, restaurants and entertainment. Apart from our own effort, things Italian were only promoted by the Yarralumla Bilingual Primary School on 10 Feb, by the Italian Tourist Office (ENIT) at a stall on 9 Feb and by the Sicilian Association on the same day. This latter stall did brisk business selling cannoli and other Sicilian pastries.

On Sat 9 Feb the **Dante Musica Viva** choir gave a powerful 20-minute performance on Stage 6 (London Cct). Francesco Sofo led a large contingent of 20+ singers and four musicians and introduced each song to the audience. The choir presented a varied repertoire, finishing with the ever-popular *O' sole mio* featuring our own brand of 'the three tenors' – Giovanni, Livio and Saverio – and the aria *Libiam* featuring Virginia and Livio.

Then on Sunday 10 Feb we had an information stall in London Cct, near Stage 6. Francesca and Franco Foppoli, Catharina Koopman and Orlando Di Iulio, then Sue Hancock and myself took it in turns to hand out literature on the society's activities and answer questions regarding

our language courses and cultural events. Unfortunately we couldn't play our own Italian music (including the choir's CD) because we were too close to a very noisy stage.

One of the many people who stopped to talk to us was the local politician Giulia Jones who was excited to tell us that she has Italian heritage – in fact her first name is spelt the Italian way. Giulia also made a stop at the stall next door to ours – the Yarralumla Bilingual school.

The local politician Giulia Jones chats with Francesca, Orlando and Franco - all members of the Dante Committee



Some things change, some stay the same...

A lcune cose cambiano, altre no...

by Yvette Devlin

The Society has had to make slight changes to certain aspects of its services this year and I thought it would be good to explain these.

Venue for formal courses

Over the last few years our formal courses have been conducted at Telopea Park School but this year we are trying the Italo-Australian Club. The main reason for the change is a substantial increase in our costs for the use of the school's facilities and a desire to work together with other Italian community groups to enhance the Italian experience of our students. We were given notice by the School of a substantial additional charge for the use of its classrooms to cover the cost of the janitor at penalty after-hour rates to open the school for our use which we would have had to pass on to the students. We have negotiated to pay the club the same rental previously paid to the school. We are monitoring this change from formal classroom facilities carefully and will review its effectiveness from feedback provided by the teachers as well as the students at the end of their courses.

When we have a sufficient number of students to run small classes (6-9 students, usually at the higher levels), we can only hold them if we conduct them at our premises in the National Multicultural Centre.

This is the reason why we have conducted classes at two different locations over the last few years and are doing so again this year.

***La Fiamma* newspapers**

For the last few years, our students have benefited from a generous agreement we had negotiated with Italian Media, the company that publishes *La Fiamma* and *Il Globo*, that enabled us to provide free newspapers for our students during term. Because of drastic cuts to the grants it used to receive from the Italian government to

promote the Italian language, Italian Media has advised that it is unable to continue with the arrangement. As a service to our members, we will run a trial for a few weeks whereby we will buy a number of copies of *La Fiamma* and will make them available at cost for purchase by interested parties attending the conversation evenings. The service will be continued only if sufficient interest is revealed during the trial. So, if you are interested, please take a copy of the paper and place your payment into our "honesty box".

Conversation groups

Members who attended last year's conversation evenings are aware that as from 2012 the Society has introduced a nominal charge for attending them. We had to take this decision as a result of the total withdrawal of funding to the Society by the Italian government.

Our conversation evening charges are: \$100 for the whole year (30 evenings); or \$40 per term (ten weeks); or \$5 for ad hoc attendance. Annual and term fees are payable through the office whereas ad hoc fees are payable by placing the correct amount in an envelope with the member's name on it. The box and envelopes are placed by the coffee counter.

Dante Website

We have been developing a revamp of the Dante website, which will be launched in the next few weeks as www.dantecanberra.org.au

Feel free to check it out in advance of its launch, noting it is still "work in progress" with a few gaps still to be finalised. Comments in advance may be sent to our Treasurer, Mario Rosi (mario@systematica.com.au).

www.dantecanberra.org.au:
visit our new website, still under construction,
and let us know what you think!

La Pasqua in Italia

Easter in Italy

di Alessia La Cavera

Mancano oramai poche settimane alla Pasqua, la principale festività del cristianesimo con cui si celebra la risurrezione di Gesù avvenuta il terzo giorno successivo alla sua morte in croce.

Per i cristiani la Pasqua è preceduta da un periodo di limitazioni alimentari della durata di quaranta giorni (Quaresima). La Quaresima - che ha inizio alla fine del Carnevale - si conclude con la Settimana Santa che comincia con la Domenica delle Palme. Questa domenica ricorda l'ingresso di Gesù a Gerusalemme dove fu accolto dalla folla che agitava delle foglie di palma in segno di saluto. Di qui la tradizione di distribuire ai fedeli, durante questa domenica, rametti di ulivo benedetto.

Tra le tradizioni più note vi è l'abitudine - particolarmente apprezzata dai più piccini - di regalare uova di cioccolata. La magia consiste nel romperle e nello scoprire cosa vi è al loro interno: giocattoli, di solito, ma anche altre sorprese se si è scelto di 'personalizzare' l'uovo con un regalo *ad hoc* che il pasticcere ha

inserito all'interno.

Alle celebrazioni pasquali sono inoltre legate alcune tradizioni culinarie molte delle quali risalgono ad antichi rituali o a simboliche rappresentazioni religiose. Ad esempio si mangia spesso l'agnello (che rappresenta il corpo di Gesù) preparato al forno e sulla tavola pasquale non mancano inoltre alcuni cibi caratteristici della tradizione agreste come le spighe del grano tramutate in pane; le erbe, quasi sempre incluse come ingredienti di torte rustiche (la più celebre è la torta pasqualina) e le uova (che simboleggiano nuova vita). Tra i dolci i più classici sono la colomba pasquale, la pastiera napoletana e la pizza dolce.

Come dimenticare, infine, la Pasquetta? La Pasquetta cade il giorno dopo Pasqua e ricorda l'incontro dell'angelo con le donne giunte al sepolcro. In Italia questo è un giorno di festa che generalmente si trascorre con parenti o amici con una tradizionale gita o scampagnata, picnic sull'erba e attività all'aperto.

B
u
o
n
a



P
a
s
q
u
a



**Autumn concert by the
DANTE MUSICA VIVA choir**

**2:30 pm Sunday
14 April 2013
Damiano Hall
Italo-Australian Club
Franklin St, Forrest
Entry: \$15 (\$10 concession)**

**The Dante Choir will perform
a wide selection of Italian popular songs such as
Calabrisella and *O' sole mio* (featuring the three tenors)
and opera arias such as *Va Pensiero*.
It will be a memorable afternoon!**

**Il coro della Dante proporrà
una vasta gamma di canzoni popolari
italiane come *Calabrisella* e *O' sole mio*
e famose arie come *Va Pensiero*.
Sarà un pomeriggio memorabile!**



Dante Musica Viva - winners of the Multicultural section, The Australian National Eisteddfod - Choirs 2012

DANTE ALIGHIERI SOCIETY OF CANBERRA

2013 CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

FORMAL COURSES (6-8 pm Italo-Aust Club in Forrest or Dante Library, NMC, Civic)

- Term 1 Tues 12 /Wed 13 Feb to Tues 16/Wed 17 Apr (10 wks then a 5-wk break to 21/22 May incl)
- Term 2 Tues 28/Wed 29 May to Tues 30/Wed 31 Jul (10 wks then a 5-wk break to 3 Sept incl)
- Term 3 Tues 10/Wed 11 Sept to Tues 12/Wed 13 Nov (10 wks)

THURSDAY CONVERSATION GROUPS (7-9 pm Function Room NMC, Civic)

- Term 1 14 Feb to 18 Apr (10 wks then 5-wk break - 25 Apr; 2, 9, 16, 23 May)
- Term 2 30 May to 1 Aug (10 wks then 5-wk break - 8, 15, 22, 29 Aug; 5 Sept)
- Term 3 12 Sept to 14 Nov (10 wks). Total: 30 weeks

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

- 7 March **Gino Moliterno (Boccaccio's place in Italian literature)**
- 18 April **Gino Moliterno (Boccaccio's *Decameron* in Pasolini's film)**
- 20 June Alessandro Giovine (Frescoes and painting techniques across the centuries)
- 18 July Gordon Bull (Tiziano) TBC
- 19 Sept Concetta Perna (Italian culture and the image of Italy in the foreign press)
- 17 Oct Chris Latham (Opera: the essential Italian art form)
- 21 Nov end-of year function: Dante Musica Viva; cooking competition; refreshments

AGM (8-9 pm Function Room, NMC, Civic): 4 April

CHOIR REHEARSALS (5-7 pm Function Room, NMC, Civic)

Every Thurs from 24 Jan to 12 Dec.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

- Easter:** Good Friday on 29 March; Easter Monday 1 April
- Anzac Day:** Thurs 25 April

Notes: NMC = Notaras Multicultural Centre



Commercial Cleaning and Maintenance
 Unit 5, 89 Tennant Street
 Fyshwick Tel: 62281777



TOSOLINI'S
 ristorante • caffè • bar

***Canberra's best Italian
 ristorante, caffè and bar***

Open breakfast, lunch and dinner

**Corner of London Circuit
 and East Row
 Canberra City**

Phone: (02) 6247 4317

www.tosolinis.com.au



COSMOREX
 COFFEE

Think **COSMOREX**
 for **beans 'n coffee** machines.



- ☒ Buy direct from the roaster
- ☒ Public welcome
- ☒ Wide range of cappuccino machines and coffee grinders
- ☒ Freshly roasted coffee
- ☒ Coffee making classes
- ☒ Agents for Yorkshire Teas.

44 Kembla St. Fyshwick, ACT. p:02 6280 7511
www.cosmorexcoffee.com.au



OPEN

**Each Thursday to Sunday
 8am to 5:30pm**

Serving the freshest & most
 competitively priced produce
 in the Canberra Region

FREE PARKING

PROUDLY SPONSORING

*National Multicultural Festival : Australia Day
 Breakfast : Hartley Lifecare Ability Challenge : Women
 & Girls Triathlon : Indigenous Sporting Events:
 Canberra Times Fun Run*

It's time to renew your membership for 2013!

Dante Alighieri Society One Year Membership

Dante Alighieri Society of Canberra Inc.

PO Box 979

CIVIC SQUARE ACT 2608

Receipt No.....

Subscription for membership for one year commencing 1/1/2013:

INDIVIDUAL \$30

CONCESSION \$15 (student/pensioner)

CHOIR \$10 (in addition to membership)

(Please print)

Surname.....

Given Name.....

Address.....

Suburb..... **Postcode**

Phone(h)(w)

.....(mob)

E-mail

Our newsletter is automatically made available to members electronically.

However, if you prefer the paper version, please tick this box.

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 Australian 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.