

# Dante Review

"To preserve and disseminate Italian language and culture"

ISSN 1441-8592 Periodico bimestrale del Comitato di Canberra della Società Dante Alighieri - 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Notaras Multicultural Centre 180 London Circuit Canberra City ACT 2601 - Phone: 02 6247 1884 - Email: info@danteact.org.au - Website: www.danteact.org.au - Issue: September/October 2016



#### **Regular Events**

DMV rehearsals on Thursdays 5-7pm

From 15 September conversation groups on Thursdays 7-9pm

Enrolments for Term 4 starting on Tuesday 11 October are open!

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From history to opera: two fabulous cultural evenings coming up!

#### **MICHAEL ALDER**

a passionate scholar of Roman history will give us a power-point presentation on

## THE RISE AND FALL OF A SUPERPOWER

A VERY BRIEF HISTORY OF
ANCIENT ROME
AND ITS EMPIRE 753BC TO 565AD

8 pm Thursday 29 September 2016

\*\*\*\*

#### **CHRISTOPHER LATHAM**

Musical director and composer will pay

#### A TRIBUTE TO MARIA CALLAS

and talk about

#### HER INFLUENCE ON THE WORLD OF OPERA

8 pm Thursday 27 October 2016

Venue for both: Function Room 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Notaras Multicultural Centre 180 London Circuit Canberra (entry via Civic Square)

# News from the office

#### **Office Hours**

The office hours of the Dante Alighieri Society of Canberra Inc. are: 9:30am-1:00pm Tuesday to Friday

For enquiries about our courses please call the office on **6247 1884** or send us an email to info@danteact.org.au

Visit us at www.danteact.org.au

We are also on *Facebook*: click '*like*' to be up to date!

#### Library

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

All members are welcome!

#### **Committee Members**

#### **President**

Professor Franco Papandrea

#### **Vice-Presidents**

Yvette Devlin and Tamsin Hong

#### **Treasurer**

Tony Hanrahan

#### **Committee members**

Luigi Catizone, Francesca Foppoli, Alessia La Cavera, Bruno Santagostino Baldi

#### Co-opted members

Pauline Adams and Nicola Patini

Journal Editor: Yvette Devlin

*Note*: the journal editor wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Alessia in compiling this issue.

#### **Upcoming Events**

1 September - Enrolments in formal courses for Term 4 open

**15 September -** Conversation groups @7pm - every Thursday for 10 weeks

22 September - Conversation groups @7pm

**29 September -** Conversation groups (7-8pm)

29 September - Cultural event: The rise and fall of a superpower - a very brief history of ancient Rome and its Empire 753 BC to 565 AD (see p. 1)

6 October - Conversation groups @7pm

11 October - Term 4 formal courses begin

13 October - Conversation groups @7pm

20 October - Conversation groups @7pm

**27 October -** Conversation groups (7-8pm)

27 October - Cultural event: a tribute to Maria Callas and a talk about her influence on the world of opera (see p. 1)

#### ITALIAN LANGUAGE COURSES IN ITALY

Are you thinking about studying in Italy?

Don't miss this opportunity!

The Dante Alighieri Society of Camerino (Marche region) offers Australian students discounts of up to 46% on their 2016 course 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 or visit www.scuoladantealighieri.org

### Modi di dire

#### Sayings - Francesca Foppoli

# Lo sport è spesso un vero affare di famiglia: figli che seguono le orme dei padri, fratelli e sorelle che eccellono nella stessa disciplina - buon sangue non mente.

Sport is often a family affair: sons follow in their fathers' footsteps, brothers and sisters excel at the same sport - chips off the old block.

## Queste sono vicende che mi fanno ribollire il sangue.

These are events that make my blood boil.

## Quando ho sentito le grida di aiuto mi si è gelato il sangue nelle vene.

When I heard cries of help, my blood ran cold.

## Non so cosa ci sia stato in passato, ma tra di loro corre cattivo sangue.

I don't know what happened in the past but there is bad blood between them.

## Povero Marco, ha sputato sangue per finire in tempo quel lavoro.

Poor Marco, he went through blood, sweat and tears to finish the project on time.

## Non conviene farsi il sangue amaro per il lavoro; piuttosto cercane un altro!

Worrying so much about your job is not worth it; just get another one!

#### Per ridere un po'...!

Una goccia di sangue cade per terra e dice: "Oggi non mi sento in vena!".



## L'angolo della lingua

#### Language corner - Yvette Devlin

One of the main difficulties that students of Italian have is the use of the **imperfect** (imperfetto) vis-àvis the present perfect (passato prossimo) to express past actions. Typically, the imperfect is used to express actions that are habitual; that describe a feeling, physical traits or the weather; or refer to a single moment in a past action. The present perfect typically describes a whole action (now completed) rather than a moment in that action. Consider these examples.

## Ieri volevo andare al parco, ma ha cominciato a piovere e allora sono rimasta a casa.

Yesterday I wanted to go to the park but it started to rain so I stayed home.

#### Da bambini, eravamo tutti e tre biondi.

As children, the three of us were blond.

#### Andavamo a scuola in bicicletta.

We used to ride the bike to school.

## Non è venuta al funerale perché era già molto depressa.

She didn't come to the funeral because she was already very depressed.

## La settimana scorsa faceva troppo freddo per andare alla spiaggia.

Last week it was too cold to go to the beach.

#### Sapevo che non le piacevano i film violenti e allora l'ho portata a vedere un film comico.

I knew she didn't like violent films so I took her to see a comedy.

#### Temevamo che l'idraulico non potesse venire fino a domani a riparare il guasto e invece è venuto subito.

We were afraid the plumber would not come till tomorrow to fix the fault but he came straight away [note the use of the imperfect both in the indicative and the subjunctive].

## Stavamo cenando quando hanno bussato alla porta i nostri vicini.

We were having dinner when our neighbours knocked on the door.

## L'angolo della poesia

#### **Poetry corner - Yvette Devlin**

This month I wish to feature a poem inspired by an olive tree, written by local poet **Mark O'Connor** while sojourning in Italy. It's in English, but I've chosen it not only because of its strong connection to Italy but also because it has been beautifully translated into Italian by poet **Paolo Totaro**, one of Mark's friends.

Totaro was born in Naples in 1933 and lives in Sydney. In Italy he graduated in Music (piano) and Law then went to work for FIAT International and this position brought him to Australia in 1963. In 1975 he joined the Australia Council as the first Director of Community Arts, and in 1977 he was appointed as the Founding Chairman of the NSW Ethnic Affairs Commission. He later became a presenter on SBS TV, and forged a close association with the Sydney academic world. Totaro has written poetry most of his life, and is blessed with the ability to write it in either language.

#### The Olive Tree (Mark O'Connor)

Nobody knows how long it takes to kill an olive. Drought, axe, fire, are admitted failures. Hack one down,

grub out a ton of mainroot for fuel, and next spring every side-root sends up shoots. A great frost can leave the trees leafless for years; they revive. Invading armies will fell them. They return through the burnt-out ribs of siege machines.

Only the patient goat, nibbling his way down the ages,

has malice to master the olive. Sometimes, they say, a man finds a dead orchard, fired and goat-cropped centuries back. He settles and fences; the stumps revive. His grandchildren's family prosper

by the arduous oil-pressing trade. The wars and disease wash over. Goats return. The olives go under, waiting another age.

Their shade still lies where Socrates disputed. Gethsemane's withered groves are bearing yet. *L'albero di ulivo* (translation by Paolo Totaro)

Chissà quanto ci vuole a uccidere un ulivo. Siccità ascia fuoco, diciamolo, non vanno. Fanne a pezzi uno;

dei radicioni fanne legna a sacchi; a primavera le radicette figliano germogli. Un grande gelo può lasciar spogli gli alberi per anni: rinverdiscono. Eserciti invasori possono stroncarli: riaffiorano, fra le costole bruciate di macchine d'assedio.

Solo il capro paziente, che passa i secoli a brucare, ha la malizia che occorre a sottomettere l'ulivo. Un viandante

trova un orto bruciato dal tempo, strubbiato dai capri. Si ferma

e lo recinge: ogni sterpo rivive. E i figli, e i figli ancora, prosperano

dell'ardua arte olearia. Poi altre guerre e altre ondi di mali. Ritornano le capre e l'ulivo si esilia, sotterra, a sognare un'altra era.

Ne rimane l'ombra, là dove Socrate parlava. E ne portano i frutti gli antichi fusti del Getsemani.

Mark O'Connor after reading poetry at Manning Clark House in December 2014



## Luigi del Bianco: an Italian stonecutter of note

#### **Yvette Devlin**

Luigi was born on a ship off the coast of France in 1892 while his Friulian parents Vincenzo and Osvalda were returning from the US to Italy.

He grew up in Meduno (Pordenone) and from his childhood showed unusual interest in his father's work —wood carving. Recognising his son's potential talent, Vincenzo took the eleven year-old boy to Vienna to learn under a skilled stone carver, and to Venice two years later.

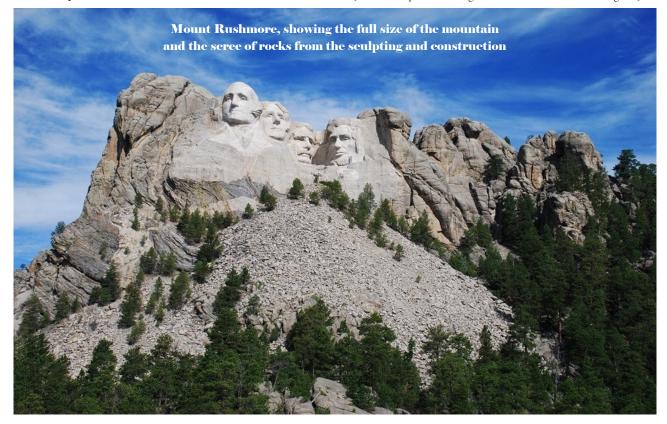
When Luigi learnt from relatives that there was work for stone carvers in America, the now seventeen year-old boarded a ship headed for the US. He returned briefly to Italy to fight during the First World War but then returned to the US where he married and settled down. Through his brother-in-law Luigi met Gutzon Borglum, the designer of Mount Rushmore, and began his professional association with him. Luigi worked with Borglum on many large-scale projects and was also used by Borglum as a model for many of his figures.

In 1933 Borglum hired Luigi as the chief stone carver of the Mount Rushmore Memorial. His task was to carve the presidents' face details, such as Lincoln's life -like eyes. Luigi also successfully repaired a large crack in Jefferson's lip by wedging a deep piece of granite held in place by pins — something that probably no other carver would have been able to do. When large-scale projects like Mount Rushmore were no longer available, Luigi returned to his workshop in Port Chester, NY where he earned a living by carving marble tombstones.

Luigi never forgot his roots. He frequently returned to Meduno to visit relatives and old friends. Proud of the achievements of its native son, Meduno has established a museum with many photos and memorabilia of Luigi Del Bianco and his time at Mount Rushmore.

The citizens of Port Chester remember Luigi as "the dapper gentleman with the fedora on his head and the gleam in his eye, who loved to walk the Italian section of Washington Park and share stories of his adventures on the mountain". In a 1966 interview, Luigi stated that it had been a privilege to work on Mount Rushmore and that he would do it all over again — "even without pay".

[Sources: http://www.luigimountrushmore.com/about-luigi-2/]



## The language of Italian fashion

#### A presentation by Anna Rita Tamponi - Susan Reye

Our cultural event on 28 July 2016 was a fascinating presentation by the Director of Education and Culture at the Italian Embassy, Dr Anna Rita Tamponi, entitled *The language of Italian fashion; How and what Italian fashion communicates*. Dr Tamponi has a doctorate in, and has been a university teacher of, linguistics, and we all recognised the expertise that she brought to the subject.

First, Dr Tamponi told us about the rise of the Italian fashion industry. It began in the 1920s and 1930s with small family businesses, including names such as Luisa Spagnoli, Gucci, Salvatore Ferragamo and Fendi.

Then, in the 1950s and 60s the Italian economy grew rapidly, driven in part by the fashion and textile sectors. The Italian fashion industry blossomed, picking up on the casual but elegant style of Hollywood stars.

In the 1960s, the boom in women's independence led to a great change in women's dress — miniskirts, bikinis on the beach, bright colours. The 1970s brought the growth of prêt-à-porter. Milan became a

fashion capital. Giorgio Armani produced streamlined, modern, relaxed ready-to-wear ensembles for working women and men.

The 1980s were an era of international success. Since 1990, following a successful marketing campaign, "Made in Italy" has become synonymous with style.

In the Italian fashion industry today, there are huge numbers of famous names — the old names remain, but there are also many new ones, such as Benetton. Notwithstanding the spread of ready-to-wear fashion, *alta moda* (haute couture) is still alive and well, eg Valentino. Each fashion house has its own specific characteristics, making it recognisable in the fashion world.

Dr Tamponi showed us video clips of two fashion shows, that had taken place only a couple of weeks earlier. The Fendi show was held at the Fontana di Trevi in Rome. (Fendi sponsored the restoration of the fountain.) Models on a transparent catwalk over the fountain appeared to walk on water. Dolce and Gabbana held its show at a number of different sites in Naples. Both shows used a cultural/historical

### Dr Anna Rita Tamponi starts her conference about The language of Italian fashion; How and what Italian fashion communicates



## The language of Italian fashion

#### A presentation by Anna Rita Tamponi - Susan Reye (cont'd)

background to create glamour embedded in Italian tradition. A living Italian icon — Sophia Loren - attended the Dolce and Gabbana show.

#### The Italian of fashion

Fashion is not just visual, Dr Tamponi told us. It is also verbal. The way we see fashion is conditioned by the words the fashion industry uses to describe it. Words and visual images are used together to create a mythical or illusory reality. Fashion uses cultural references to create, through words and images, atmosphere and judgements, eg 'romantic' (lace, embroidery), 'traditional' (classic cut, austere lines), 'ethnic' (brightly coloured, alternative).

Dr Tamponi described for us some of the peculiarities of the (Italian) language of fashion, which she has studied in great depth. Here are just a few examples.

Italian fashion uses a hybrid lexicon borrowed from other languages, eg "look", "chic", "haute couture", "smoking. It transforms negative words into positive ones, eg mania, trasgressivo, eccentrico, veleno, aggressivo. It is hyperbolic, eg "divino tessuto"; "stoffa del potere e del peccato". It uses metaphors

("la moda ondeggia sui tacchi"), similes ("si trucca come le bambole virtuali") and metonymy ("il classico", "lo sportivo"). It uses mostly impersonal verbs and also slogans — short sentences without verbs and with attractive key words. It invests objects with human or animal features, eg "la scarpa che respira".

The Italian language of fashion, Dr Tamponi said, is part of everyday life, and can be used in the teaching of Italian.

#### The Fendi show held at the Fontana di Trevi in Rome



#### Cenno storico

#### A bit of history - Yvette Devlin

The battle of the Milvian Bridge took place on 28 October 312 AD. On that day Constantine the Great, the 57<sup>th</sup> emperor of the Roman Empire, defeated emperor Maxentius (the 56<sup>th</sup> Roman Emperor) outside Rome. This is an important date for Christianity. Before the battle, Constantine had a vision that led him to adopt the sign of the cross of the Christian god and then fought the battle successfully.

Constantine played an influential role in the proclamation of the Edict of Milan in 313, which decreed tolerance for Christianity in the empire. He promoted it for the rest of his life, ensuring that it became the official religion of the empire over the course of the 4<sup>th</sup> century. Constantine died on 22 May 337 aged 65.

La battaglia del Ponte Milvio si svolse il 28 ottobre 312 a.C.. È il giorno in cui il 57esimo imperatore romano Costantino il Grande sconfisse fuori Roma il 56esimo imperatore romano Massenzio. È una data importante per il cristianesimo. Prima della battaglia Costantino ebbe una visione che lo indusse ad adottare il segno della croce del Dio cristiano e vince la battaglia.

Costantino giocò un ruolo cruciale nella proclamazione dell'Editto di Milano del 313 che introdusse tolleranza verso il cristianesimo nell'impero. Lo promosse per il resto della sua vita, assicurandosi che divenisse la religione ufficiale dell'impero per il resto del quarto secolo. Costantino morì il 22 maggio 337 all'età di 65 anni.

## Know your choir - A profile of Marie Wright

#### **Yvette Devlin**



Marie relaxing at dinner after a choir performance at Wollongong

Singing for many people is one of life's absolute toetapping joys. Think about the songs you just love. When you let rip either on or off key, behind the wheel of your car (or in the shower) is there any other pastime at any age which can consistently fill you with pleasure?

About 12 months ago on a road trip to Melbourne there was a CD of 60ies golden oldies and at the top of my voice from goodness knows where, came a rendition of "Do Wah Diddy Diddy". Thank you Manfred Mann. Still, I ask you where has that been lurking in my head for the last 50 odd years? However, that is what music, especially singing is all about. When you least expect it some refrain comes crashing forward and you are immediately transported. "Beam me up Scotty" every time!

So when did I first perform for an audience? It was in my Primary School choir in Townsville. I was probably about seven or eight years old. I am not entirely sure why I was selected but it might have been something to do with a rousing rendition of "God Save the Queen" at assembly. We always had a piano at home as my mother played. I seriously resisted lessons, which is not surprising because I do not know when I would have fitted them in given that I also represented the school at swimming, tennis and basketball and my all time love was ballet. A busy little bee!

After about five years of eisteddfods, Primary School choirs and solos, I graduated to High School and Gilbert and Sullivan – The Mikado, The Gondoliers and The Pirates of Penzance. The first serious boyfriend moonlighted as a drummer at the Friday night dance. That was the first time I was let loose in front of a microphone – dreamy love songs and dimmed lights!

My alma mater was the ANU. At university there were no frivolous pursuits at all. I had found a world of knowledge and as far as singing was concerned "La Donna è mobile". However, at about this time Graham and I became subscription members of the Canberra Symphony Orchestra. During the subsequent about 40 years I have had the pleasure of seeing the Orchestra grow and improve remarkably. During this period my understanding and appreciation of classical music has also grown and improved.

If one considers my tertiary educational qualifications I suppose I am a Geographer. It was thanks to these qualifications that I spent a great deal of time over many years in South East Asia as a Research Assistant. My second tertiary qualification is as a teacher of adult education. This led to years in the Australian Public Service as a Training Instructor. However my third tertiary qualification gave me the greatest pleasure in the work force — my love of the English language and put simply "words". I spent years as a Speech Writer.

So, prior to Dante Musica Viva, there seems to have been a long dry spell — music appreciation but little participation (apart from the shower). Mind you I do admit to a few karaoke nights along the way singing either "Country Road" or "I Did it My Way". Oh my gosh!

Then along came Yvette Devlin. I will not hear

## Know your choir - A profile of Marie Wright

#### Yvette Devlin (cont'd)

another word on the subject of whose idea it was to form the choir. I will always say that Yvette was the prime mover ... and I should know as I was sitting beside her. From those humble beginnings around the huge table upstairs at the Italian Club great things have happened. For me each and every Thursday evening is a joy. I have found again the totally absorbing pleasure and the lifting of spirits that comes with the power of voice. There have been many highlights since the inception of Dante Musica Viva. I thoroughly enjoyed Wollongong and Griffith was an absolute triumph ... as is the face of someone in an audience singing along with us as we perform. That is

ample reward, so think about joining us. After all, "If music be the food of love play on." Thank you William Shakespeare, Twelfth Night 1601.

[Ed. Marie joined the Dante Society to learn Italian the same year that the choir was formed in 2005. She is one of nine current members who have been there from the start. She has been married to Graham for 44 years and she sees him as her "whole life". To her two grandchildren, she's just "nonna". She recalls, somewhat embarrassingly, that at her first lesson of Italian all students had been asked to give their name in Italian. While managing to master "mi chiamo", by the time her turn came she was so flustered that she had forgotten her name!]

#### **2016** Calendar of Activities

#### **Formal courses**

(6-8 pm Yarralumla Primary School or Dante Library in the NMC, Civic)

Term 1	Tuesday 2 February to Wednesday 6 April	(10 wks)
Term 2	Tuesday 26 April to Wednesday 29 June	(10 wks)
Term 3	Tuesday 19 July to Wednesday 21 September	(10 wks)
Term 4	Tuesday 11 October to Wednesday 14 December	(10 wks)

#### **Thursday Conversation Groups**

(7-9 pm Function Room NMC, Civic)

Term 1	Thurs 18 February to Thurs 21 April	(10 wks then 5-wk break)
Term 2	Thurs 2 June to 4 August	(10 wks then 5-wk break)
Term 3	Thurs 15 September to 17 November	(10 wks) <b>Total: 30 weeks</b>

#### **Cultural Activities**

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

24 February	Clinica Mobile for motorcycle racing around the world (location: Italo-Australian Club)
17 March	Sara D'Alessandro – Perspective. From Brunelleschi to Michelangelo: a system for reading the world
21 April	Gino Moliterno – The life and work of Sophia Loren
21 June	Videoconference on the Rizzoli Orthopaedic Institute of Bologna (location: Italian Embassy)
21 July	Anna Rita Tamponi – The language of Italian fashion
29 September	Michael Alder – The rise and fall of a superpower: a very brief history of ancient Rome
	and its empire 753BC-525AD
27 October	Christopher Latham – Italian opera: Maria Callas and its influence on the world of opera
24 November	End-of year function: Dante Musica Viva, cooking competition, refreshments

AGM (8-9 pm Function Room, NMC, Civic): 31 March

CHOIR REHEARSALS (5-7 pm Function Room, NMC, Civic): every Thursday from 28 January to 8 December PUBLIC HOLIDAYS – Easter: Good Friday on 25 March; Easter Monday 28 March; Anzac Day: Friday 25 April





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hmitchell@nmcaustralia.com.au



## Enrolment form for Term 4 2016 Courses start on Tuesday, 11 October

Please note that students must be financial members of the Dante Alighieri Society of Canberra

Pl	ease selec	t course ]	level			
	Beginner 1		□ Beginne	r <b>2</b>	☐ Beginner	3
	Pre-interme	diate	□ Interme	ediate [	☐ Advanced	I
	Italian for To	ourists				
				School and consist of 1 Multicultural Centre		of 8x2 hour sessions
	Enquiries: Tues	day to Friday (	(9:30am-1:00pm	m) Ph: 6247 1884	Email: info@	danteact.org.au
Nai	ne and Surnai	ne				
Add	lress		Subi	ırb	_ State	_Postcode
Pho	one		(h)	(w)		(mob)
Em	ail					
Hov	w did you hear	about this c	ourse?			
□ N	ewspaper 🗆	Internet	□ Friend/Fam	ily   Prev	ious Course	□ Other
Itali Disc Text Text		\$250 fee: \$280 (Nation ners and Inter need: <i>Italian E</i>	onal Library of mediate: <i>Italia</i> spresso 2, \$70.00	Australia's friend In Espresso 1, \$70.0	,	tinuing students)

Payment by cash, cheque or deposit

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 Ac No: 515 003 825

Please include your surname and initial as the reference when paying by EFT or send the deposit slip with your enrolment form. Your enrolment will be completed when payment confirmation is received.

We regret no refund, deferment or credit will be allowed (qualified cases considered according to the policies)

# 2016 Membership

Subscription for membership (from 01/08/2016 to 31/12/2016):

#### **Dante Alighieri Society Membership**

Dante Alighieri Society of Canberra Inc. PO Box 979 Civic Square ACT 2608

#### Receipt No

	inemoersinp (iro		, <b>2010).</b>
□ INDIVIDUAL	\$20		
□ CONCESSION	\$10 (pensioner)		
□ CHOIR	\$10 (in addition to	o membership)	
Name			
Surname			
Address			
Suburb		State	Postcode
Phone	(h)	(w)	(mob
Email			
	•	e available to members el	ectronically.
However, if you prefe Is this a renewal?	□ Yes / No		
Are you interested in	Yes / No		
I agree to abide by t Copies are available		ions of the Dante Alighieri ce on request.	Society.
SIGNED			DATE

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