Messaggio del Presidente

The year 2002 promises to be a banner year for Italian studies in North America. We have made much progress in our efforts to convince the College Board of the desirability and indeed the necessity of an Advanced Placement course and examination in Italian, and a decision on this matter is imminent (see the related piece by Dolores Mita on p. 4 in this Newsletter). We are sponsoring our annual meeting in Toronto (November 7-10), and this will be only the second time in our long history that AATI has met in Canada. We are hopeful that the Italian government will sponsor a special corso di aggiornamento didattico-linguistico-culturale at the Università per Stranieri di Perugia this summer, at the end of July and beginning of August. We will be holding elections for the Regional Representatives in the fall, and a special committee has been appointed to review nominations and to select the recipient of the AATI Distinguished Service Award for 2002.

By this time, you should have received the second call for papers and related information for our 2002 meeting in Toronto. Although many colleagues have submitted proposals, we would like to encourage you to submit a proposal for a paper or for an entire session. We are very grateful to Tony Mollica and his associates for their hard work and dedication in the planning of this conference.

The 2002 AATI Directory is getting close to publication, and we ask that you send any last minute changes in your mailing address, e-mail address, affiliation, and the like to the AATI secretary, Tullio Pagano (paganot@dickinson.edu), as soon as possible.

AATI Conference with ACTFL in Washington, DC

The AATI sessions at last fall’s meeting with ACTFL (November 16-18) were well attended. We are grateful to the Italian Embassy and the Italian Cultural Institute in Washington for hosting a reception for participants in AATI sessions and other Italianisti on Saturday evening at the Ambasciata d’Italia. I would like to thank Fiora Bassanese and the other members of the Program Committee—Mariastella Cocchiara and Lucrezia Lindia—for their fine work in organizing the program for this conference.

Regional Representatives

I would like to remind our members that the AATI Executive Council is charged with serving as resources for their respective regions and to transmit regional and local news to the national organization by means of the Newsletter. Consequently, I urge you to inform your regional representative (names and addresses may be found inside this Newsletter) of newsworthy events that have taken place in your school, on your campus, or in your geographic area. These events can be of all possible types: lectures, conferences, symposia, theatrical and musical productions, art exhibits, pedagogical initiatives, new publications, honors and fellowships, and so on. We are also very much interested in longer pieces for the Newsletter, in which topics of pedagogical or cultural interest would be discussed, or in which information about special projects and initiatives may be presented.

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2002

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AATI Memorial Fund

I would also like to remind you that AATI has established the Memorial Fund as a way of honoring the memory of deceased colleagues. As you probably know, in recent years the Association has lost several longtime members. A special section of future AATI directories will record the names of those colleagues for whom memorial contributions have been made. In this way we will both honor our departed colleagues and begin to form an endowment for the Association. These additional funds will allow us to engage in a number of new initiatives (e.g., awards, prizes, scholarships, etc.). Donations may be included on the membership renewal form or may be sent independently to the AATI Treasurer, Maria Rosaria Vitti-Alexander.

With the fast approaching end of the academic year, I wish you all the best for a restful summer, and I look forward to seeing you at the meeting of the Association in Toronto next November and to hearing from you in the coming months. We welcome your active participation in AATI events, activities, and initiatives.

Chris Kleinhengt

Distinguished Service Award Nominations Welcome!

Members are reminded that this year AATI will present the Distinguished Service Award to a deserving member at the annual business meeting in Toronto in November. This award is meant to recognize a colleague who has made significant contributions to the AATI and to Italian Studies in North America. Nomination letters, together with letters of support (three to five) and a current curriculum vitae, should be sent to Professor Albert N. Mancini, Department of French and Italian, Ohio State University, 1841 Millikin Road, Columbus, OH 43210. Complete dossiers must be received by September 30, 2002.

The members of the Selection Committee include Albert N. Mancini, Olga Ragusa (Chair), and Joseph Tursi. In addition to the members of the Committee, previous recipients of the AATI Distinguished Service Award are Aldo Bernardo, Giovanni Cecchetti, Edoardo A. Lébano, Robert Melzi, Julius A. Molinaro, and Joseph Tusiani.

Nominations for Regional Representatives are Welcome!

Elections will be held later this year for all of the Regional Representatives of AATI. The regions (states) and their current representatives are as follows:

- New England (CT, MA, ME, NH, RI, VT): Mario Asti
- New York State: Giuseppe Faustini, Mario Donatelli
- Mid-Atlantic (NJ, PA, DE, MD, DC): Gaetana Marrone-Puglia
- Southeast/Southern (NC, SC, VA, WV, KY, TN, AL, FL, GA, LA, AR, MS, Puerto Rico): Mark Pietralunga
- Midwest (IL, IN, MI, OH, WI, MN, IA): vacant
- Plains/Southwest (KS, MO, AZ, NE, ND, SD, NM, OK, TX): Guy P. Raffa
- Rocky Mountains/Far West (CO, ID, MT, NV, UT, WY, OR, WA, AK, HI): Regina Psaki
- California: Irene Marchegiani Jones
- Canada: Michael Lettieri

We encourage you to suggest names of potential candidates to the Nominations Committee, which consists of the following individuals: Edoardo Lébano (Chair), Michael Lettieri, Grace Mannino, Regina Psaki, and Ida C. Wilder. The Committee invites AATI members to bring potential candidates to its attention. Suggestions should be made to the Chair of the Committee at the following address:

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Bloomington, IN 47405
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Fax: (812) 855-8877
Tel: (812) 855-2508

Convegno AATI 2003

In preparazione per il Convegno AATI del 2003 a Philadelphia i soci sono invitati a mandare al Prof. Pier R. Baldini, (Department of Languages & Literatures Arizona State University Tempe, AZ 85287-0202) il titolo di una sessione che vorrebbero offrire al convegno così da poterla pubblicizzare. Questi titoli verranno pubblicati nella Newsletter del prossimo autunno con il nome della persona responsabile per la sessione e un invito alla partecipazione degli altri soci.

Gian Paolo Biasin Scholarship Fund

Gian Paolo Biasin (1932-1998) was Professor of Italian at the University of California, Berkeley, from 1981 to 1998, at the University of Texas, Austin, from 1973 to 1981, and at Cornell University, Ithaca, from 1964 to 1973.

The Biasin Scholarship Fund was established through gifts from Prof. Biasin's family members and his many friends. While the Fund honors Gian Paolo's life as scholar, teacher and friend, its aim is to provide financial assistance to those students of Italian Studies at Berkeley who wish to do study-related work in Italy. Contributions to the Biasin Scholarship Fund should be sent to:

College of Letters and Sciences, At: Martha Tipton
201 Campbell Hall 2920
University of California Berkeley, CA 94720-2920.

Checks should be made payable to: University of California, Berkeley Foundation, with a notation that the gift is for the Biasin Scholarship Fund.
Italian Language Advanced Placement Program

**Overview of the College Board’s Advanced Placement Program**

The College Board’s Advanced Placement Program, referred to as AP, provides students the opportunity to pursue college-level courses while still in high school. The program offers students access to high quality education, thus enhancing both high school and college programs.

Nationwide, approximately 60% of high schools offer AP college-level courses. AP programs include an enriching curriculum culminating with an intensive examination. Students may receive college credit if they score well on the examination, and they may be exempted from introductory college courses.

There are AP programs offered in Art, Biology, Calculus, Chemistry, Computer Science, Economics, English, Environmental Science, Geography, Government and Politics, History, Music Theory, Physics, Psychology, Statistics, and several foreign languages, French, Spanish, Latin, and German. Currently there is no AP program in Italian.

**The Proposed Italian Language Advanced Placement Program**

For many years the American Association of Teachers of Italian (AATT) had been requesting an Italian Language AP program, but to no avail. However, in the late 1990s the effort intensified with the able guidance and assistance of Dr. Vittoria Cifone of the Education Office of the Italian Consulate in New York City. Finally, in January, 2001, after having received some hopeful signs from the College Board and financial support from the National Italian American Foundation, AATT submitted a proposal for the creation of an AP program demonstrating strong support from foreign language professional organizations as well as Italian American organizations and the Italian Government. The members of the proposal committee were Professor Christopher Kleinhenz, Professor Eedoardo Lébano, Professor Joseph Tursi, Rosa Bellino Giordano, Grace Mannino, Dolores Mita, and ‘da Wilder. The proposal was well received by the College Board.

The College Board requires a minimum participation of 500 schools to create an AP program. In 2001 the director of the AP program, Dr. Lee Jones, sent surveys to principals in those high schools that had AP programs already in place, to inquire about interest in a long list of newly proposed programs, among them, the Italian Language Advanced Placement Program. The response to this survey (only 167 schools responded positively) was not sufficient to support an Italian program.

Another factor to contend with was financial. As it is very expensive to launch a new AP program, the College Board asks organizations requesting new programs to contribute the funds needed to develop the course and examination, as well as to train the instructors who will teach the courses. The cost of development was estimated at $500,000. Mrs. Matilda Raffa Cuomo undertook the task of exploring funding possibilities.

In January 2002, a committee consisting of representatives of AATT, the National Italian American Foundation (NIAF), Order Sons of Italy in America (OSIA), the Italian Embassy, Mrs. Matilda Raffa Cuomo, and Dr. Margaret Cuomo Meier, met with Dr. Lee Jones. Of primary concern was the low number of schools that had responded positively to the College Board survey (167). The committee indicated that there are many high schools nationwide where Italian is taught that were not included in the College Board survey. A decision was made that Professor Christopher Kleinhenz, as president of AATT, would undertake the task of contacting high school principals who had not been contacted by the College Board, as well as principals who had either responded no to the College Board, or who had not responded at all.

In February, Professor Kleinhenz sent a letter to these high school principals including a brief survey to be returned to him indicating whether or not the school would participate in an Italian AP program. It was necessary for AATT to receive positive responses from at least 300 schools in order for the AP program to become a possibility. In addition, he mailed letters to supervisors of foreign language programs in these schools to inform them about the survey. To ensure that responses would be forthcoming, AATT set up a telephone network across the country to call principals to discuss the merits of the proposed AP program. The telephone network comprised a wide range of dedicated people; teachers and professors of Italian across the nation were asked to set up local networks to reach the principals in their area. Also involved in the network were staff members from the NIAF and OSIA; the Educational Directors of the Italian Embassy in Washington, and Italian Consulates in Boston, Chicago, Miami and New York, the lecturers based in the Italian Consulates in Philadelphia and Houston, and the Directors of the Italian Cultural Institutes of Los Angeles and San Francisco. Mrs. Matilda Cuomo and Dr. Margaret Cuomo Meier played a major role in this calling network.

On April 30, Professor Kleinhenz sent a report to Dr. Lee Jones documenting the schools that responded to the survey. Positive responses to the proposed Italian Language AP program were received from 326 schools; negative responses were received from 96 schools. The schools that responded negatively did so for a variety of reasons. Some have weak programs that would not be able to sustain the high level of instruction of an AP program; others already offer advanced Italian courses in conjunction with local colleges and universities for college credit, while others do not have a sufficient number of students enrolled in their Italian programs. There are a...
Basta una password per
imparare l'italiano:
La vocazione di Didael
per l'italiano

Siamo lieti di informarVi che è disponibile il nuovo corso d’italiano per stranieri: Dentro l’italiano on-line 2.0:
Il corso multimediale per apprendere tutti i segreti della lingua italiana.

Dentro l’italiano on-line 2.0, validato e sperimentato da diverse Università in Italia e all’estero, si rivolge a tutti coloro che per esigenze diverse vogliono imparare l’italiano come seconda lingua.

Il corso è un’importante risorsa didattica per docenti e formatori, in Italia e all’estero che desiderano introdurre le tecnologie digitali nei loro corsi di italiano. Strutturato in 4 livelli; principiante assoluto, principiante, intermedio e avanzato, Dentro l’italiano on-line offre diverse tipologie di percorso: un Percorso per Situazioni, un Percorso Narrativo e un Percorso per Funzioni linguistiche, oltre a 2.500 esercizi, test, filmati, e un lessico con più di 5.000 voci. Ai percorsi si aggiunge un’area ricreativa ricca di giochi didattici. L’approccio didattico è essenzialmente di tipo comunicativo con attenzione, non solo allo sviluppo della competenza comunicativa, ma anche alla dimensione funzionale e pragmatica della lingua.

Dentro l’italiano on-line 2.0 è un prodotto multilingue perché nelle sue versioni localizzate – inglese, francese, spagnolo, portoghese, svedese, arabo – copre già tutta l’Europa, il Sud America e il Medio Oriente. Didael, primo learning service provider italiano in grado di fornire soluzioni e servizi integrati di e-learning, da oltre 15 anni è impegnata nei confronti dell’insegnamento della lingua italiana per costruire modelli didattici in continua evoluzione. Tutte le esperienze e le attività della società sono state indirizzate nel tempo alla difesa e alla promozione dell’italiano come lingua nazionale, al fine di colmare i bisogni linguistici, per valorizzare le differenze e promuovere le diversità. Ne sono testimonianza le molteplici iniziative Didael in questo senso tra cui: www.aaaitalianocercasi.com; periodico on-line di lingua e cultura italiana; Milia on-line progetto realizzato in collaborazione con il Ministero della Pubblica Istruzione, finalizzato alla formazione e all’aggiornamento dei docenti d’italiano L2.

Dentro l’italiano on-line 2.0 utilizza l’innovativa tecnologia XML/XSL/Java – caratterizzandosi quindi come un’applicazione completamente served-based – che tra l’altro, permette un aggiornamento più semplice rispetto a nuove interfacce quali, ad esempio, WAP, voice decoder TV digitali. Se invece desiderate il corso offline è disponibile anche la versione 2.0 su CD Rom e in versione LAN (Local Area Network) per i laboratori multimediali in rete locale. Per maggiori Informazioni: mail: italianoonline@didael.it; tel.: 02/5418091; Web: www.didael.it.

Circle these dates for the
AATTI - CSIS
Conference in
Toronto

NOVEMBER 2002
Centro della Scuola Normale Superiore (wwwctl.sns.it)

Direttore: Lina Bolzoni;
Comitato Direttivo: Paola Barocchi, Lina Bolzoni, Davide Conneri, Giuliana Crevatin, Maria Monica Donato, Lamberto Maffei
Comitato Internazionale di Consulenza Scientifico: Mary Carruthers (New York University); Marc Fumaroli (Collège de France); Claude Imbert (Ecole Normale Supérieure, Parigi); Michel Jeanneret (Università di Ginevra); Lea Ritter Santini (Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität, Münster); Victor Stoichita (Università di Friburgo)

Il Centro di Elaborazione Informatica di Testi e Immagini nella Tradizione Letteraria (CTL), costituito il 19 dicembre 2000 e diretto da Lina Bolzoni, si propone di realizzare progetti di ricerca che, avvalendosi anche della tecnologia informatica, studino i complessi rapporti tra parola e immagine presenti nella tradizione letteraria. Per questa ragione ha trovato la sua collocazione naturale all'interno del Centro Ricerche Informatiche per i Beni Culturali, Scuola Normale Superiore, diretto da Paola Barocchi. Il CTL si avvale della consulenza di un Comitato Scientifico di alto livello e ha inoltre avviato collaborazioni con studi di università e istituzioni culturali italiane e straniere. Il Centro, in collaborazione con la casa editrice Nino Aragno, ha inoltre fondato la collana “Parole e Immagini” diretta da Lina Bolzoni. La collana è interessata alle ricerche relative alla percezione, alla memoria, alla comunicazione di parola e immagini. Intende esplorare ricerche interdisciplinari, sia nell’ambito delle discipline umanistiche, sia nell’ambito di una collaborazione fra ricerca umanistica e ricerca scientifica. Il CTL è stato ufficialmente presentato il 21 e 22 maggio 2001 presso la Scuola Normale nelle giornate di studio Parole e Immagini. Linee di ricerca e di elaborazione informatica per un nuovo Centro della Scuola Normale Superiore.

Alcuni dei Progetti di Ricerca: Il Sogno nella letteratura e nelle arti figurative del Rinascimento: Archivio indicizzato di testi letterari e di immagini in cui si narra o si descrive un sogno. Il progetto si inserisce nel progetto di interesse nazionale “Il Sogno Raccontato” finanziato dal Murst; è all’inizio della sua seconda fase che prevede, in particolare, la creazione di un archivio informatico specifico per le immagini, mentre l’archivio dedicato ai testi è già consultabile in rete.


Arti della memoria: È avviata la costituzione di un archivio delle immagini presenti nei trattati di arte della memoria; la seconda fase riguarderà la costituzione di un archivio di immagini di memoria usate in settori diversi dalla cultura medievale e rinascimentale (arti visive, letteratura, pratiche devotionali e mistiche, ecc.).

Scambi letterari e tradizioni tra Italia e Peninsula Iberica del Siglo de Oro: Il progetto si propone di avviare una ricerca sulle relazioni letterarie tra Penisola Iberica e Italia durante il “Siglo de Oro”, complementare alla ricerca condotta in Spagna dall’Università di Barcellona e dedicata alla presenza e alla diffusione della letteratura italiana in Spagna.

Petrarca e le arti figurative: Il progetto indaga i rapporti di Francesco Petrarca con le arti figurative, secondo diverse direzioni di ricerca: la cultura visiva del poeta, l’intreccio di esperienze di lettura (classic, padri, “moderni”) e esperienza diretta (relazioni con artisti del suo tempo, oggetti collezionati o osservati) nelle sue riflessioni sulle arti.

La nuova collana “Testi e saggi rinascimentali” della Scuola Normale diretta da Lina Bolzoni da un lato recupera la tradizione, viva e importante, delle pubblicazioni di testi umanistici inediti e rari della Scuola Normale, dall’altro intende allargare l’ambito cronologico, aprire alla saggistica e alla edizione di testi che non sempre rientrano nelle tradizioni divisioni disciplinari. Il primo volume, pubblicato nel 2001, è il Dialogo del modo di accrescere e conservare la memoria di Ludovico Dolce, a cura di Andrea Torre.

Recent Publications

Nell’opera di Tommaso Landolfi l’elemento fantastico viene rievocato coscientemente in funzione straripante dello scopo di problematizzare il concetto stesso di realtà e di irradiare alle pretese mimetiche del linguaggio e della letteratura. Il saggio si divide in due parti, dapprima una discussione di alcune delle principali teorie del fantastico (e in particolare di quella di Todorov), poi un’analisi dei maggiori testi narrativi fantastici di Landolfi.

Leonardo Cecchini, Dottore in Lettere e Filosofia all’Università di Firenze, è professore all’Istituto di Filologia Romanza all’Università d’Aarhus. For further information, please contact: Marius Hansteen, Information & Marketing, Museum Tusculanum Press, University of Copenhagen, eMail: marius@mtm.dk; tel: +45 35 32 91 10; fax: +45 35 32 91 13; website: www.mtm.dk

cont’d on next page
College Essay Contest

We are pleased to announce the co-winners of the 2001 AATT College Essay Contest. The prize of $300 (each) was awarded to Chad Shorter (Brigham Young University) for his essay on “L’influenza del dolce stil novo sulla musica popolare americana” and to Regan O’Kon (Arizona State University) for her essay on “Il caso di Derek Rocco Barnabei e la pena di morte in America: un esempio dell’influsso della cultura italiana sull’America.” We congratulate these two fine students for their demonstrated excellence in Italian studies. Our thanks to Mario Aste (University of Massachusetts-Lowell) and the members of his selection committee for their dedicated work. Please encourage your students to participate in this competition.


This volume is a study of the relationships between decadent literature and anthropology in late 19th- and early 20th-century Europe. In particular, this volume explores the largely unnoticed connections between, on the one hand, the purposeless and ephemeral beauty in the “art for art’s sake” doctrine, and, on the other hand, the disinterestedness and the spontaneity ascribed by anthropologists to the ceremonial expenditure of “primitive” civilizations. Pireddu highlights how, in those two apparently opposed discourses, prodigality and asceticism challenge the Western cult of profit by working in two directions: beauty is a form of lavishness, and lavishness a source of beauty. The book is composed of two parts. The first part, with a comparative and interdisciplinary approach, reconstructs what Pireddu presents as a homology between aesthetic activity and gift-economy in fin de siècle European culture at large. Within that framework, the second part offers an innovative reading of a rich series of Italian, English, and French texts, inspired by ceremonial expenditure. It hence rethinksthe poetics of renowned writers like D’Annunzio, Wilde, and Huysmans, and reaffirms the centrality of unjustly neglected authors like Paolo Mantegazza and Vernon Lee.

AATT-CSIS Conference in Toronto

November 7-10, 2002

Planes are well-underway for a combined AATT-Canadian Society for Italian Studies Conference to be held in Toronto on November 7-10, 2002. Professor Baldini informs me that he has received numerous proposals and based on his projection. 200 rooms have been booked at three different hotels, all within walking distance. Excellent prices for hotel accommodation have been negotiated but we remind you that in order to be assured of rooms at the current negotiated prices, payment should be sent to Professor Anthony Mollica, the local Conference co-chair, before July 1.

This year’s conference will feature three keynote speakers: Prof. Maurizio Dardano and novelist Angela Bianchini. Both speakers are sponsored by the Goggio Chair, Department of Italian Studies, University of Toronto, and we are most grateful to the Department for its generosity. We are in correspondence with a third speaker whose name will be announced as soon as we receive confirmation. The Director of the Italian Cultural Institute, Dr. Carlo Coen has graciously offered a reception to the attendees.

There is plenty to do in Toronto in addition to attending the conference. In the next Newsletter, we will provide information for those colleagues wishing to visit Niagara Falls. Those colleagues who wish to make this a bit of a holiday and wish to remain longer, we have negotiated the same hotel rates.

For those colleagues coming from Europe, we are trying to negotiate a special rate through Alitalia.

If you require further information, please contact Prof. Anthony Mollica at: anthony.mollica@brocku.ca
Maurizio Dardano

Maurizio Dardano is Professor of History of Italian Language at the Facoltà di Magistero dell’Università “La Sapienza” Rome. He has taught at Università degli Studi di Roma Tre and taught at the Università di Chieti. He has published widely. Among his numerous scientific and didactic works, we single out Nuovissimo dizionario della lingua italiana (Roma, Curcio, 1982), La nuova grammatica della lingua italiana (with Pietro Trifone) (Bologna, Zanichelli, 1997), Studi sulla prosa antica (Bologna, Zanichelli 1996). Prof. Dardano’s keynote address will focus on “Tradizione e innovazione nella lingua italiana nel Terzo Millennio.”

Angela Bianchini

The novelist Angela Bianchini, born in Rome in a Jewish family, was compelled to emigrate in 1941 to the United States, where she completed a Ph.D. in French Linguistics with Leo Spitzer at Johns Hopkins. Her many novels among which La ragazzia in nero (Camunia 1990, Rapallo Prize 1990, The Girl in Black, 2002) and Capo d’Europa (Camunia 1991, finalist for the Strega Prize 1991, Donna-Città di Roma Prize 1992, The Edge of Europe, 2000), deal with the themes of exiles and isolation caused by wars and persecutions and also with the theme of the changing relationship among women friends and relatives against the background of a changing society.

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The AATT Newsletter publishes information about new publications, forthcoming conferences, events, contests and awards. It also provides a forum for discussion on pedagogy and teaching strategies. Short articles (3-4 pages) or brief notes (1-2 paragraphs) dealing with direct classroom experience, teaching tips, and successful application of linguistic theories are welcome.

Information about your school or local organization, and other items of interest should be sent to the Editor by September 15th, for inclusion in the Fall issue and by March 1st, for the Spring issue.

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