



VOL. 1 NO. 1 JANUARY, 2005

IL CAVALIERE

OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF THE ITALIAN LEGIONS OF MERIT

Society Celebrates 40th Year

Founded on the 1st of April, 1965, the American Society of the Italian Legions of Merit is 40 years old this year. (See accompanying message from His Excellency Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, President of the Republic of Italy.) Organized under the laws of the State of New York as a not-for-profit corporation headquartered in New York City, it still adheres to the purposes set forth in its basic charter: "to do everything to maintain the cordial relationship and tending to strengthen the traditional friendship and good will existing between the people of the United States and Italy."

The Society's first president was *Comm.* Major Mario G. Remo, a retired military officer. He served through 1972 as both President and Grand Chancellor, positions subsequently separated. His officers and board members included a New York Italian American elite at a time when most *cavalieri* resided in its environs: Buitoni, Di Falco, Di Giovanna, Gerosa, Impellitteri, Lambert, Picone, Rao, Re, Rogers, Screvane, to name but a few. In 1969, Terence Cardinal Cooke, Archbishop of New York, became Chaplain.

The Internal Revenue Service determined that the Society was exempt from Federal income tax under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, continuing to afford tax deductibility for contributions made to its name.

A membership short of 200 was recorded, only seven of whom – *Gr. Uff.* Peter F. Bonafede, *Cav.* Peter Cardillo, *Gr. Uff.* Joseph Di Fede, *Comm.* Hon. John Marchi, *Cav.* Cesar Taormina, *Cav.* Andrew Torregrossa and *Cav.* George Weissman - - are still active Society members today. ♦

Jurist Named Italian Legions of Merit President Officers for 2005-06 in Place

Dominic R. Massaro, who since 1987 has presided as a Justice of the Supreme Court of New York – the oldest court of continuing jurisdiction in the United States (1691) – has been named President of the American Society of the Italian Legions of Merit.

The Society, which is national in scope, is comprised of those who because of some personal quality or because of some special service have been decorated in a chivalric Order conferred by the Republic of Italy. Throughout the United States, there are some 700-odd *cavalieri* so decorated, enrolled mainly either in the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic or the Order of the Italian Star of Solidarity. Both are internationally recognized state orders.

An intimate of leading Italian Government personalities, Justice Massaro is often received in Rome. He has a long history of involvement at the highest levels of international Italian American activity and is one of the leading American articulators for

the non-marginalization of Italy in any reorganization of the United Nations Security Council. His chairmanship of the blue-ribbon Antonio Meucci Memorial Committee witnessed success in 2000 with the acknowledgment by Congress of Meucci's claim to primacy in the invention of the telephone. The respected jurist has over the years

"Throughout the United States, there are some 700-odd cavalieri so decorated, enrolled mainly either in the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic or the Order of the Italian Star of Solidarity. Both are internationally recognized state orders."



been recognized by practically all of the principal Italian American organizations, and he serves as "president emeritus" of the Conference of Presidents of Major Italian American Organizations.

As far back as 1969, he was conferred as *Commendatore* in the Order of the Italian Star of Solidarity "as much for past accomplishments as for future expectation," the citation read. Apparently, that expectation was fulfilled: three decades later, in 1998, he was conferred with Italy's highest decoration: *Cavaliere di Gran Croce* in the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic, one of only eight Americans of Italian descent to hold the rank. "Little did your grandparents realize, when they left Italy so long ago, how much of you would return," Italy's then ambassador to the United Nations, F. Paolo Fulci intoned when he presented the decoration on behalf of the President of Italy.

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Jurist Named Italian Legions of Merit President; Officers for 2005-06 in Place

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Dominic R. Massaro was a "highly qualified" nominee to the judiciary by Governor Cuomo in 1986; he was reappointed by Governor Pataki in 1996. An "Outstanding Young Man of America" chosen by the United States Jaycees in 1964, he has since enjoyed a 40-year career filled with important public service as a member of the bar, jurist, author and lecturer. He is the recipient of four earned degrees: in economics, government, criminal justice, and jurisprudence. He has been awarded numerous doctoral degrees, *honoris causa*, in laws, letters and judicial administration. Accorded the rank of "Academic" by the Pontifical Tiberian Academy in Rome, he is a Woodrow Wilson Visiting Fellow, and lectures annually on both sides of the Atlantic.

He served first as New York city and then state human rights commissioner during the administration of Nelson Rockefeller. President Nixon named him to the State Appeals Board of the Selective Service System. He served as U.S. Regional Director of the Agency for Voluntary Service (Peace Corps, Vista, Older American Programs), with jurisdiction from New York to the Caribbean, during the Ford Administration. The judge is a Major in the Judge Advocate General Corps of the Army New York Guard.

President of the Catholic Students Association while an undergraduate at N.Y.U., he would later serve for 20 years as chairman of the Cardinal's Committee on the Italian Apostolate of the

*The ASILM
is represented
by seven
distinguished
regional
vice presidents.*

Archdiocese of New York. The jurist was named "Catholic New Yorker" in 1986. He continues into his third decade as a trustee of the archdiocesan Lavelle School for the Blind. Published in legal and scholastic journals, his 1991 treatise, *Cesare Beccaria - The Father of Criminal Justice: His Impact on Anglo-American Jurisprudence*, won the International Dorso Prize. The author of more than 150 published legal opinions, he is listed in "Who's Who in American Law" and "The American Bench." In 1994, he was the joint recipient of the "Lehman-LaGuardia Award in Civil Rights" by the Order Sons of Italy in America and the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith. UNICO National gave him its "Rizzutto Award," the organization's highest, in 1995. He is the recipient of the the Police Honor Legion of the City of New York, the Congressional Medal of Merit, and the Ellis Island Medal of Honor.

A past president of the National Commission for Social Justice, he is a long-time director of the National Italian

American Foundation (NIAF). He likewise serves as a director of the Casa Italiana Zerilli-Marimó at New York University, La Scuola d'Italia Guglielmo Marconi and the Fiorello H. La Guardia Foundation, all in New York. The jurist is completing his twelfth year as Principal Representative of the American Judges Association to the United Nations.

In the world of chivalry, in addition to the grand cross of Italy, he is conferred with four other grand crosses: that of The Vatican, the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, the Roman Catholic Church, and the Association of Latin American States.

Elected with the jurist to serve as officers of the Society for the next biennium are *Cavaliere* Marie Garibaldi, for 18 years a Justice of the Supreme Court of New Jersey, vice president; *Commendatore* Baroness Mariuccia Zerilli-Marimó, the international philanthropist, secretary general; and *Cav.* Matthew Nizza, an attorney and certified public accountant, treasurer and chief financial officer. *Cav. di Gran Croce* Dr. Lucio Caputo, president of the Gruppo Esponenti Italiani (GEI), is board chairman. Both of Italy's ambassadors here, His Excellency Sergio Vento to the United States, and His Excellency Marcello Spatafora to the United Nations, are board members. His Excellency Archbishop Celestino Migliore, apostolic delegate to the United Nations, is ecclesiastical chaplain; *Cav. di Gran Croce* Edward D. Re, Chief Judge Emeritus of the United States Court of International Trade, is grand chancellor; and *Comm.* RoseMarie Gallina-Santangelo is chief of protocol.

Named as regional vice presidents are: *Gr. Uff.* Dr. A. Kenneth Ciongoli of Burlington, Vermont (Northeast); *Cav.* Dr. Thomas Bellavia of Elmwood Park, New Jersey (Mid-Atlantic); *Gr. Uff.* Joseph Maselli of New Orleans (Southeast); *Cav.* Antonio Lombardo of St. Louis (Central); *Cav.* Mary Ann Anselmi Ravarino of Salt Lake City (West); *Comm.* Andrew Torregrossa of Scottsdale, Arizona (Southwest) and *Comm.* Joseph R. Cerrell of Los Angeles (Pacific). ♦

IL CAVALIERE

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF THE ITALIAN LEGIONS OF MERIT



Il Cavaliere is an official publication of the American Society of the Italian Legions of Merit, a not-for-profit, tax exempt organization legally incorporated in the State of New York.

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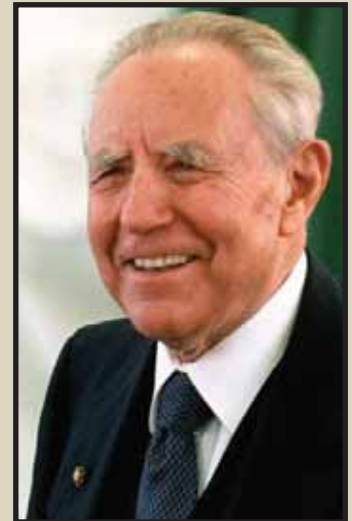
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Message from... the President of the Republic of Italy to the “American Society of the Italian Legions of Merit”, on the occasion of the Fortieth Anniversary of its founding

On the occasion of the Fortieth Anniversary of the founding of the “American Society of the Italian Legions of Merit,” I wish to send a cordial greeting to all the members of the Association and to the Judge Dominic Massaro, who has assumed the position of President.



This meaningful event underlines the role of your Association, which comprises prominent representatives of your Italian American community, on whom high honors have been bestowed by the Italian Republic for the efforts with which they distinguished themselves in promoting the collaboration between the two Countries.

I met many of you on the occasion of my last visit to the United States. I know that the strengthening of the friendship between Italy and the United States is the primary objective of your work. I encourage you to continue pursuing it with renewed determination.

While expressing my appreciation for the ongoing support of the “American Society of the Italian Legions of Merit”, I renew to you all my good wishes for the continuation of your efforts.

Carlo Azeglio Ciampi



Migliore, Re, Gallina-Santangelo Named Chivalric Officers



ARCHBISHOP
CELESTINO MIGLIORE



JUDGE EDWARD D. RE



ROSEMARIE
GALLINA-SANTANGELO

His Excellency Celestino Migliore, Judge Edward D. Re and RoseMarie Gallina-Santangelo have been named chivalric officers of the Society. As such, they serve as members of the Board of Directors.

The Society, a knightly organization comprised of those who have been so decorated by the Republic of Italy, adheres to ancient practice and officers associated with such traditions.

Gr. Uff. Archbishop Migliore, a seasoned diplomat, is newly appointed as Ecclesiastical Chaplain. A Papal Nuncio, he serves as Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations. He formerly served as First Secretary in the apostolic delegation for the United States in Washington, D.C.; he likewise served as an Observer to the Organization of American States, which is headquartered there. Before assuming his current post, he was Special Envoy to the Council of Europe, and for many years Undersecretary of State in the Vatican's foreign ministry. The prelate is a Knight Grand Cross of the Constantinian Order of St. George of the House of Borbon Two Sicilies and a Knight Grand Cross of the Order of Sts. Maurice and Lazarus of the House of Savoy, among others.

Cav. di Gran Croce Judge Re, renamed to the post of Grand Chancellor, is Chief Judge Emeritus of the United States

Court of International Trade. A distinguished Professor of Law at St. John's University, the author of legal texts and casebooks, the jurist was first appointed Chairman of the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission of the United States by President Kennedy. President Johnson named him Assistant Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs, then to the United States Customs Court. President Carter named him Chief Judge of the United States Court of International Trade. Judge Re is a Colonel (ret.) in the Air Force Reserve, has served as Consultant to the Mission of the Holy See at the United Nations and is a Knight of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem.

Comm. RoseMarie Gallina-Santangelo, who likewise continues in her post as Chief of Protocol, was for 16 years Special Assistant to Governor Cuomo for Italian American relations and New York-Italy intergovernmental affairs. She saw service as a member of the Ellis Island Restoration Commission and as vice chair of the Inter-Ethnic Affairs Institute. FIERI National named her "Woman of the Year" and the Italian Big Sisters granted her their "Bishop Pernicone Award." A former president and board chair of the Society (the first woman to be elected to either post), she holds the honorific of "Emeritus." ♦

At NIAF Gala

Numerous *cavalieri* gathered in the nation's capital for the National Italian American Foundation's Gala Weekend recently. NIAF is headed by its chairman, *Gr. Uff.* and former New Jersey congressman Frank Guarini.



Pictured at the Friday night reception at Villa Firenze, home of Italy's Ambassador to the United States are: *Uff.* Marie Garibaldi of New Jersey (Society vice president) and Ambassador Sergio Vento.



Pictured at the Saturday night banquet reception are: Italian Foreign Minister Franco Frattini, Avv. Simona Ingaglio, Ambassador Sergio Vento, *Gr. Uff.* Frank Stella of Michigan, and in the background between them, *Cav. di Gran Croce* Antonin Scalia, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.

Caputo Receives Gran Croce

The *Cavaliere di Gran Croce* of Italy's Order of Merit, the highest decoration of the Italian Republic, has been conferred up Dr. Lucio Caputo "as a sign of recognition and appreciation for his outstanding merits in favor of Italy."

During 30 years of activity centered in New York, Dr. Caputo, first as Italian Trade Commissioner, established the largest Italian Government commercial office in the world. Afterwards, in a variety of private endeavors, he distinguished himself in significant ways in favor of Italy's economic growth through stimulating commerce in the shops and stores that serve the American consumer. In particular, his business acumen and professional approach in conducting promotional initiatives and trade shows of all kinds has contributed greatly to the high profile and wide acceptance of the "Made in Italy" label in the highly competitive American marketplace.

Dr. Caputo, who serves as Chairman of the Society's Board of Directors, is President of the Italian Wine and Food Institute representing numerous Italian commercial interests here. He serves as President of the Gruppo Esponenti Italiani (GEI) comprised of the most important Italian entities doing business in the United States. He is president of the International Trade Center and the European Wine Council. Active in Italian American circles as well, he serves as Secretary of The Conference of Presidents of Major Italian American Organizations.

Listed in "Who's Who in the World," his conferral by President Ciampi of Italy brings to nine the number of individuals of Italian descent in the United States who hold Italy's highest decoration. ♦



DR. LUCIO CAPUTO

Benvenuti Cavalieri



Newly bestowed *cavalieri* decorated in a December ceremony at the Consulate General of Italy in New York are: *Cav.* Hon. Anthony S. Seminerio, Member of the New York State Assembly; *Cav.* Giovanni Porcelli, past president, Columbia Association, New York Police Department; *Cav.* Vincent Tumino, president, Columbia Association, New York Fire Department; *Uff.* Joseph Sciame, outgoing Society president; *Cav.* Frances M. Rello, member, New York Italian History and Culture Month Committee; Italian Consul General Antonio Bandini; and CUNY history professor *Cav.* Robert Dombroski (posthumously), represented by his two sons.

ASILM HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

The Society's annual holiday party at its headquarters Columbus Townhouse on the upper east side of Manhattan was "simply elegant." These words were echoed over and over again. Formally attired officers, directors and guests filled an Oak Room decorated in white and gold and twinkle lights for dinner, following cocktails in the main reception hall. Music abounded during the evening's festivities and the Society's new administration was introduced.



At the microphone during the cocktail reception, the outgoing president Uff. Joseph Sciame ...



and Italy's Consul General in New York, Minister Antonio Bandini ...



and, finally, the new president, Cav. di Gran Croce, the jurist Dominic Massaro.



and the Papal Nuncio, the Society's ecclesiastical chaplain, Archbishop Celestino Migliore ...



1. Gr. Ufff. Peter Bonafede and Cav. Aldo Mancuso
2. Cav. Peter Caruso and Cav. Vincenzo Marra
3. Society vice president, Ufff. Justice Marie Garibaldi
4. Cav. Prof. Irma Jaffe with Prof. Farhang Zabeeh
5. Cav. Michael Santangelo with his wife, the Society's chief of protocol, Comm. RoseMarie Gallina-Santangelo
6. Minister Antonio Bandini, Comm. Stefano Acunto and Cav. Michael Santangelo
7. Cav. Vito De Simone and Gran Ufficiale Congressman Frank Guarini, chair of the National Italian American Foundation



8. Uff. Sciame, Comm. Baroness Mariuccia Zerilli-Marimó, Society secretary general, Archbishop Migliore, Prof. Filomena Ricciardi, Knight Grand Cross Carl J. Morelli, Esq., American Delegate of the House of Savoy.

9. Comm. Acunto with Comm. Baroness Zerilli-Marimó

10. Cav. Caruso, Marilyn Destanzio, Cav. Vincent Tumino, and Cav. Marra

11. Cav. Dr. Richard Bellucci, Gr. Uff. Bonafede, Cav. di Gran Croce Judge Edward D. Re, Society grand chancellor, with H.E. Aldo Mantovani, Deputy Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations

12. Gr. Uff. Bonafede and his wife Lucia, Cav. Dr. Bellucci and Cav. Joan Migliore

13. Cav. Joseph Scelsa, president of the Italian American Museum and Cav. Maria Fosco, chair of the Italian Welfare League



14



15



16



17



18

- 14. Prof. Ricciardi and the Italian Cultural Center's public relations officer Giuliana Ridolfi
- 15. Cav. Livia Sylva, former New York City Commissioner to the United Nations
- 16. Comm. Dr. Ailien Riotto-Sirey, chair of the National Organization of Italian American Women and Comm. Baroness Zerilli-Marimó
- 17. Ambassador Mantovani brings the greetings of his Government
- 18. Cav. di Gran Croce Judge Re commenting on a beautiful evening

Photography by Vito Catalano

Di Lorenzo Received

H.E. Giulio di Lorenzo Badia, Ambassador of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta to the Republic of Italy and former Consul General of Italy in New York, was received by the Society on the occasion of his recent visit. Comm. Prof. Marco Grassi coordinated the reception. Cav. di Gran Croce Justice Dominic R. Massaro welcomed the ambassador, and Italy's current Consul General in New York, Minister. Antonio Bandini, offered reminiscences about the guest. Some forty cavalieri were on hand.



HELPCORNER

Cavalieri who may have mislaid their rosetta or spilla and wish to replace this lapel insignia or pin (or any other decoration device for that matter) are invited to write to:
Secretary General,
American Society of the Italian Legions of Merit,
Eight East 69th Street,
New York, New York
10021. Replacements are available at nominal cost according to specified rank.

Cavalieri *in the news...*

Cav. Paula Savino Alleva received the "Award for Lifetime Achievement in Education" from the Association of Italian American Educators;

Cav. Lawrence E. Auriana's vintage sports car racing team won the Grand Prix Historique du Monaco;

Cav. Dr. Richard Bellucci honoree of the Columbus Citizens Foundation at its 60th Annual Gala;

Cav. Elsie Cardia named Knight Commander of the Order of Merit of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta;

Cav. Dr. Joseph Cerrell received the "Lifetime Achievement Award for Outstanding Contribution to Campaign Consulting" from American University;

Cav. Rev. Joseph A. Cogo assigned by the Scalabrini to Caracas, Venezuela

Comm. Francesco L. Giambelli recognized by St. Vincent's Hospital for donating \$1 million toward a new cardiac surgical care unit;

Cav. di Gran Croce Hon. Dominic R. Massaro conferred with the Knights' Cross of the Teutonic Order;

Cav. Richard Torrenzano named Knight Commander with Star of the Roman Catholic Church's Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem.

Cavalieri who receive honors and other recognitions should send information and a bust photograph to: Editor, Il Cavaliere, American Society of the Italian Legions of Merit, Eight East 69th Street, New York, New York 10021.

Crocana

Since his election by acclamation on November 29, 2004, the President of the Society, Cav. di Gran Croce Hon. Dominic R. Massaro, has represented it at the following chivalric and diplomatic events:

November 30, 2004: by invitation of H.E. Agim Nesho, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Albania to the United Nations, on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic

December 10, 2004: by invitation of Knight Grand Cross Carl Morelli, Esq., American Delegate of the House of Savoy, on the occasion of the 100th Anniversary of the birth of His Majesty Umberto II, late King of Italy (1946), under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Victor Emanuel IV of Savoy.

December 21, 2004: by invitation of Baroness Mariuccia Zerilli-Marimó, Chair of the Casa Italiana Zerilli-Marimó at New York University and Secretary General of the Society, on the occasion of the visit of T.E. Pier Benedetto Francese, Ambassador of Italy to Switzerland, and Archbishop Silvano M. Tomasi, Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations (Geneva).

January 22, 2005: by invitation of Mrs. Carole Haarmann Acunto, Chair, on the occasion of the "Quadrille" in favor of Germanistic Society of America, under the patronage of T.E. Wolfgang Ischinger, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to the United States, and Gunter Pleuger, Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Germany to the United Nations.

In Memoriam...

Comm. Salvatore Argento
NEW YORK

Cav. di Gran Croce
H.E. Thomas M. Foglietta
PENNSYLVANIA

Cav. Hon. John P. Lomenzo
NEW YORK

Foglietta Passes

Cav. di Gran Croce H.E. Thomas M. Foglietta, former United States Ambassador to Italy, is dead. He was 75. Foglietta, the son of a Philadelphia city councilman, was 26 years old when he succeeded his father as a Republican in 1955. He would serve for 19 years. In 1980, Foglietta won election to Congress as an independent; he eventually switched to the Democratic Party. While still serving, President Clinton named him Ambassador to Italy in 1997. He returned to Philadelphia in 2000 and worked as a lawyer and lobbyist for international clients.

His death reduces to eight the number of individuals of Italian descent in the United States who hold Italy's highest decoration.

Did You Know?

Like all orders of knighthood, Italian state orders are subdivided into ranks in the following descending order:

Cavaliere di Gran Croce - Knight of the Grand Cross*

Gran Ufficiale - Knight Grand Officer**

Commendatore - Knight Commander

Ufficiale - Knight Officer

Cavaliere - Knight

* Highest rank for the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic

** Highest rank for the Order of the Italian Star of Solidarity

Looking Back...

... to 1998, a Society board meeting at its headquarters Columbus Townhouse (seated from left) *Cav.* Joseph M. Mattone, Esq.; *Gr. Uff.* Domenick G. Scaglione, president; *Cav. di Gran Croce* Judge and Mrs. Edward D. Re; (standing) *Cav.* Joseph Zagame; *Cav. di Gran Croce* Justice Dominic R. Massaro; and *Uff.* Joseph Sciame.



Newly elected to the Society's board are Comm. Stefano Acunto and Uff. Hon. Livia S. Sylva



Transylvania born Uff. Livia Sylva, fluent in six languages and a student of design under the guidance of Parisian couturiers early in her career, opened her first women's salon in Montreal. Her original renderings and fashion presentations soon led to a second salon in Palm Beach. Branching out, she founded

the cosmetic company "Bee Pollen Skin Care" (Anthony Quinn was her first spokesman). Instrumental in the establishment of the First Women's Bank of New York, she was named by Mayor Rudolph Giuliani as Commissioner of the city Commission on the United Nations and Consular Corps. Her tenure during his administration was marked by a revitalization of the "Sister Cities" program and overall supervision of the city's role in the 50th Anniversary of the world body. She was named Ambassador-at-Large of the Comite d'Excellence European, and awarded its Gold Medal. A philanthropist and opera buff, she is a Dame of the Order of the Temple of Jerusalem. ♦



Comm. Stefano Acunto is President of CINN Worldwide, Inc. He holds a B.A. and M.A. in classical philology from New York University. A recipient of numerous professional and academic awards, he is an officer of the Insurance Federation of New York, the International Insurance Law Society, the American Reinsurance and Insurance Arbitration Society and served as Managing Director, the Westchester Venture Capital

Group. A trustee of John Cabot University (Rome), he has likewise served the College of Mt. St. Vincent and the State University of New York (Westchester). Mr. Acunto is the author of *Westchester County*, editor of *Giobbi: Representative Works*, *New York Colors – A Impressionist's Ode to the City* and *Imaginal Realism* among many other he has edited. He published the first bibliography of *Italian American Writers*. An honorary Vice Consul of Italy, Chairman of the Italian Academy Foundation, publisher of the academic quarterly *The Italian Journal*, he serves on the Board of La Scuola d'Italia Guglielmo Marconi, Casa Italiana Zerilli-Marimó, N.Y.U. and is Chairman of the American Institute of Verdi Studies. He is a *Cavaliere* of the Order of Saints Maurice and Lazarus. ♦