DANTE NEWS

SOCIETÀ DANTE ALIGHIERI

"il mondo in italiano"

Newsletter of the Dante Alighieri Society Inc. Brisbane AGOSTO 2022

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PRADELLA
Since 1959

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land and their unique relationship with their ancestral Country. We pay respect to Elders, past, present, and emerging.

Calendario

August 6 – BBQ at Bunnings

August 10 – Ekka day in Brisbane
15 – Ferragosto in Italia

August 29 – Cineforum

Date Claimer

September 9 – Castellano Memorial Lecture
Pier Paolo PASOLINI

Valentina e Stephanie (nel centro) con il Presidente del Fogolâr Furlan Salve, la moglie Glenda e alcuni friulani, la Presidente della DAS Claire e vari membri del suo comitato in piedi. Complimenti Valentina, bravissima!

Dante matters

from the pen of the President…

Cari soci,
It's been a busy weekend at the Dante – as you can see from the photos inside – with a fascinating presentation on Friday evening by Valentina Maniacco, in conversation with Stephanie Green from Griffith, and a stimulating professional development workshop for language teachers on Saturday morning, organised by us and attended by teachers from the DAS Gold Coast and other institutions.
If you're interested in buying a copy of *Mestri di mont: Memories of a Mountain Teacher*, Valentina's translation of Tito Maniacco's *Mestri di mont*, please see Valentina, Bernadine or Rosalia, as we're arranging a bulk order from Italy. We also have a couple of copies in our library.
If you missed the event, you'll soon be able to view it on our Youtube channel, thanks to Mario! Lesley's Synge's presentation from February is available there (https://youtu.be/P4_ru8qUQg0) as well as the presentations from our Dante700 seminar last year.

https://www.blocal-travel.com/street-art/pasolini-street-art-rome/

There are exciting events coming up. As this year is the centenary of the birth of the extraordinary film-maker, poet, novelist and essayist Pier Paolo Pasolini, we are dedicating the Castellano Memorial Lecture for 2022 to him. The lecture will be given by Prof. Herman Van Eyken, Director of the Griffith Film School, on Friday 9 September. Its title is "PPP: Pier Paolo Pasolini: *Prolifico Passionato Provocatore*" but it will be in English. *Assolutamente da non perdere!!*

The Ballet International Gala on 26 and 27 August, at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, is bringing the Italian star dancer Roberto Bolle to Australia for the first time. See inside for information on booking tickets at a discounted price.

We have another sausage sizzle at Bunnings Newstead on Saturday 6 August. These sizzles are an important source of funds for the Society, so please consider getting on the roster to help or dropping in to enjoy a snag if you can. I hope to see you on one side of the counter or the other!

On a different note altogether, we had the sad news last week of the death of Prof. Luca Serianni, Vice President of the Dante in Rome since 2010. He was hit by a car while on a pedestrian crossing, near his home in Ostia. Serianni was a highly esteemed linguist – a specialist in the linguistic history of Italy, also known for his work on poetic language, on special-purpose languages and, more recently, language pedagogy. Professor at the University of Rome "La Sapienza", he was director of the Italian Lexicography Centre for l'Accademia della Crusca (https://accademiadellacrusca.it/) and a member of the scientific academy l'Accademia nazionale dei Lincei (see https://www.lincei.it/it). I looked up the latter, and found this statement of its mission which I thought particularly worth sharing:
"L'Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei … ha lo scopo di promuovere, coordinare, integrare e diffondere le conoscenze scientifiche nelle loro più elevate espressioni nel quadro dell'unità e universalità della cultura…".

In our library we have one of Serianni's books: *La lingua nella storia d'Italia*, a collection of essays he edited.

Bye for this month,
Claire

NOTIZIE

Back by popular demand, the Ballet International Gala (BIG) returns to Brisbane for two nights only, at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre.

The Ballet International Gala will embark upon its second series of shows in Queensland, this coming August, with two performances between the 26th–27th August 2022.

Do not miss the once in a lifetime opportunity to see principal dancers from Teatro alla Scala, The Royal Ballet, American Ballet Theatre, Staatsballett Berlin, Astana Opera all on the one stage as they perform highlights from Manon, Don Quixote, Giselle, Le Corsaire, Flames of Paris, La Bayadere and more!

International artists from around the world will join! BIG names such as: Daniil Simkin Skylar Brandt Aran Bell Yasmine Naghdi Alexander Campbell Francesca Hayward Cesar Corrales Shugyla Adepkhan Baktiyar Adamzhan Juliet Doherty & more!"

These international heavy weights will perform a carefully curated selection of solos and pas de deux and will collaborate alongside some of Australia's own world-class talent, including one of Queensland's most promising musical acts for a stunning rock, grand finale!

BIG II will be presented in a gala format, and is incredibly proud to have, as a headline artist, one of the most internationally renowned ballet dancers of a generation, La Scala Principal Dancer Etoile, Roberto Bolle.

Dante Alighieri Society is proud to offer to you all 20% off to Ballet International Gala II

Book now at this link: Ballet International Gala II tickets | Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre | Ticketek Australia

In occasione della conferenza del Dei (Department of Education international) a Brisbane, abbiamo avuto il piacere di conoscere tre rappresentanti dal Liceo Ginnasio Statale 'Francesco Vivona'di Roma. Le ringraziamo per essere venute alla Dante e ci auguriamo una futura collaborazione.

Daniela, la Preside del liceo, Rosalia e Bernadine

Saturday 6th August Bunnings Sausage Sizzle

If you're able to volunteer on the day for a couple of hours, please contact the Sizzle Captain, Mario Bono (mario@bono.id.au).

We understand that the weekend is a special time to dedicate to family and friends so, if you would like to assist the DAS but cannot be there in person, **please consider donating a Woolworths or Coles Gift card**. We do all our purchasing (sausages, bread, soft drinks, and sauces) from these two supermarkets so by cutting our expenses you would be contributing just as if you were there.

Thank you!

Dalla scuola

L'inizio del terzo trimestre è stato veramente stimolante per la scuola: abbiamo accolto nuovi studenti sia principianti assoluti sia altri che hanno deciso di riprendere a studiare l'italiano. Parecchi studenti inoltre sono ritornati dai loro viaggi in giro per il mondo con deliziosi assaggi e golosità da condividere con i loro compagni.

Welcome to the new students/members! We hope the first few weeks of Italian language learning have whetted your appetite for a life long passion of all things Italian! We are looking forward to assisting in any way possible.
We remind you that enrolment and payment of fees are due, please finalise them at your earliest convenience. The enrolment form is available on the web page https://dante-alighieri.com.au/home/classes/ or at the school.

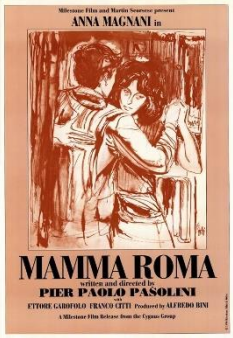
CONVERSAZIONE

This *Circolo* on Thursday afternoon from **3:30 to 5:00** is for levels of high Intermediate to Advanced language proficiency.

These are the last dates for Term 3 in August – 11 & 18 August

CINEFORUM domenica 29 agosto alle 4:00 alla Dante

MAMMA ROMA



Mamma Roma is a 1962 Italian drama film written and directed by Pier Paolo Pasolini, and starring Anna Magnani and Ettore Garofolo.

On Monday 18 July, two of our members and classroom facilitators, attended their graduation ceremonies with Griffith University. Deborah Skipper graduated with a Diploma of Languages (Italian) and Valentina Maniacco graduated with a Doctor of Philosophy. Here they are enjoying the moment 😊.
Congratulations ladies!!!

13 agosto 2022
Ricordiamo il nostro **caro Carlo Zincone** a due anni dalla sua scomparsa in attesa dell'apertura di una sezione speciale a lui dedicata nella biblioteca della DAS.

OOPS!

Nell'edizione del mese scorso abbiamo pubblicato un bellissimo **articolo sull'Osteria senza oste**. Ci siamo dimenticati di darvi il nome del talentuoso scrittore che sarebbe... **Eric**.
Le nostre più sentite scuse, continua ad inviarci articoletti, ci fa molto piacere riceverli e pubblicarli. Le redattrici

Gli insegnanti schierati e sorridenti per la foto d'obbligo dopo un' interessante e informativa sessione di aggiornamento. GRAZIE Sara e Joe! Siete straordinari!

Ricordi del Comm. Carmelo Caruso

Nell'ultimo bollettino del Dante News, pubblicato nel mese di Luglio 2022 a pagina due, leggo con interesse che quest'anno si festeggia il 70mo anniversario della fondazione della sede Dante di Brisbane e nel quale si chiede ai soci e simpatizzanti di inviare fotografie, cimeli ed altro per esporli quale memorabilia. Essendo in possesso di alcune di queste, fra le quali qualche lettera, tessere ed altro, vorrei metterli a disposizione.

Adesso vorrei ricordare il mio coinvolgimento con la Dante di Brisbane. Al mio arrivo in questa città nel 1953, incontrai, presso la sede della Dante, alla Casa di San Francesco, il Vice Presidente, lo stimatissimo Dr Francesco Castellano, il quale mi invitò a farmi socio. La casa di San Francesco, ubicata al centro della città di Brisbane in Elizabeth Street, voluta dai Padri Cappuccini, in particolare dal dinamico Padre Bonifacio, era un centro di aggregazione per gli emigrati. In quel tempo, a Padre Bonifacio venne l'idea di acquistare uno stabile per accogliere e assistere gli emigrati, poiché negli anni 50 ne arrivavano moltissimi, indi invitò alcuni esponenti della comunità italiana a raccogliere fondi per l'acquisto di uno stabile; la scelta cadde su un edificio in vendita al centro della città di Brisbane, precisamente in Elizabeth Steeet. In poco tempo furono sensibilizzati molti connazionali benestanti che offrirono cospicui fondi che ne permisero l'acquisto.

In base alle mie ricerche mi risulta che la Dante, per interessamento del Dottor Sir Raphael Cilento e di altri esponenti della comunità italiana, nacque nel 1936. Inizialmente assunse il nome di "Società Nazionale Dante Alighieri" e il già menzionato Sir Rapahel Cilento venne eletto primo presidente del sodalizio.

IL GLOBO - Martedì, 20 Marzo 1973

A BRISBANE

Serata italiana della «Dante Alighieri»

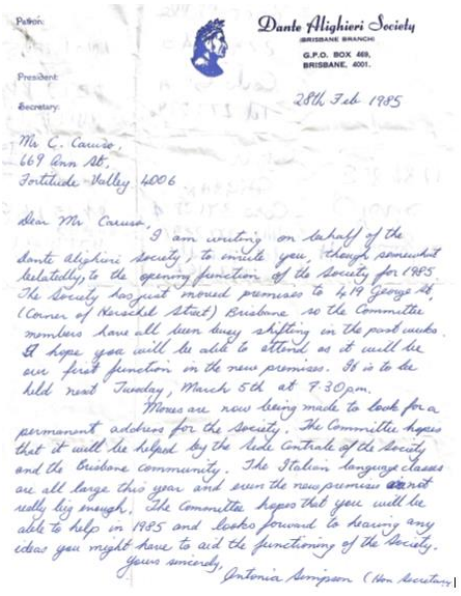
Da sinistra: Il sig. Carmelo Caruso titolare del noto emporio italiano, il console d'Italia per lo Stato del Qld. Luigi Fulvi, la segretaria della Dante Alighieri sig.ra Peggy Cameron, il Ministro per lo sviluppo industriale on. Fred Campbell, la sig.na Anna Muriglia, il presidente della Dante Alighieri Prof. John Gransden, la sig.ra Rina Caruso, il direttore delle attività culturali per il Queensland Prof. Arthur Creedy.

Brisbane, 17 marzo | tenore Enrico Caruso, di cui

Allo scoppio della seconda guerra mondiale nel 1939, a causa della situazione politica generatasi in Australia, Sir Cilento riunì il comitato e fu deciso all'unanimità di chiudere temporaneamente la sede.

Nel 1952 il Vice Console d'Italia Dott. Felice Benuzzi, vero artefice della rinascita, sensibilizzò nuovamente esponenti della comunità italiana e fu riaperta la sede della Dante; Sir Raphael Cilento venne rieletto presidente unitamente a due Vice Presidenti, il Dr. Bernard Rappaport e il Dr Francesco Castellano ed altri esponenti i quali formarono il Comitato. Uno dei primi soci fu il Dr Steven Kingston ed il Dr Bernard Rappaport ai quali se ne aggiunsero molti altri.

Nel 1967 fu iniziata la pubblicazione del bollettino della società, il "Dante News", che pubblicava notizie sociali ivi incluse le varie attività culturali e ricreative della Dante, alla quale guida si sono alternati negli anni vari dirigenti, fra i quali vorrei portare all'attenzione dei lettori che nel 1954, il già menzionato Dr Francesco Castellano, a seguito delle dimissioni di Sir Raphael Cilento, venne eletto presidente. Detta carica durò ben 15 anni. Nel 1975 fu eletto il Prof John Gransden al quale succedette il Prof Robert Milns, primo presidente di nazionalità non italiana, nel 1978 fu eletto l'amico Prof Max Brandle, direttore dell'Istituto di Lingue Moderne presso l'Università del Queensland; seguì il Prof J Tayres, indi il Prof Don Dignan e il Prof Enzo Belligoi: fu durante la sua presidenza che il sottoscritto ricoprì la carica di Vice Presidente del Comitato di Assistenza della Dante, poi venne eletta la Dott.ssa Maurizia Turco ed altri fra i quali la Dott.ssa Liz Jarvis e la presente Dr Claire Kennedy.



Dante Alighieri Society
BRISBANE BRANCH
G.P.O. BOX 469,
BRISBANE, 4001.

Patron
President
Secretary

28th Feb 1985

Mr C. Caruso,
169 Linn St,
Fortitude Valley 4006

Dear Mr Caruso,

I am writing on behalf of the dante alighieri society, to invite you, though somewhat belatedly, to the opening function of the Society for 1985. The Society has just moved premises to 419 George St, (Corner of Ruschel Stret) Brisbane so the Committee members have all been busy shifting in the past weeks. I hope you will be able to attend as it will be our first function in the new premises. It is to be held next Tuesday, March 5th at 7.30pm.

Moves are now being made to look for a permanent address for the Society. The Committee hopes that it will be helped by the Rede Centrale of the Society and the Brisbane community. The Italian language classes are all large this year and even the new premises aren't really big enough. The Committee hopes that you will be able to help in 1985 and looks forward to hearing any ideas you might have to aid the functioning of the Society.

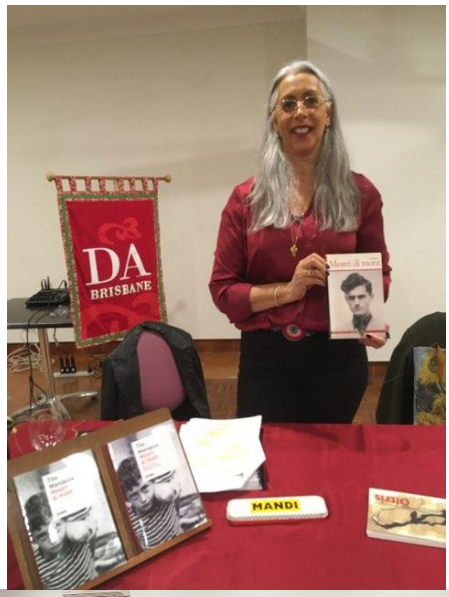
Yours sincerely,
Antonia Arrigoni (Hon Secretary)

Sin dalla rinascita della Dante nel 1952, i corsi di lingua e cultura italiana si tenevano presso la Casa di San Francesco, sotto la direzione del Prof Robert Mc Donald, coadiuvato dall'insegnante Carolina Crocetti la quale, dopo un po' di tempo si unì in matrimonio col Prof. McDonald, seguì l'insegnante Norris Childers e negli anni 80 il Prof Carlo Zincone.

A destra un invito scritto dalla Segretaria Antonia al Comm. Caruso nel 1985.
Sopra a sinistra un articolo del 1975. Il resto dell'articolo sarà pubblicato a settembre.

Book presentation

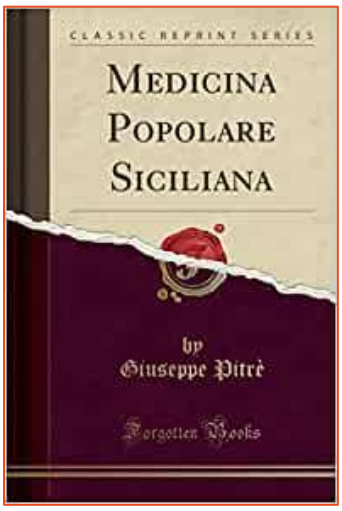
Una serata in conversazione con Valentina che ci ha parlato del libro da lei tradotto. Una serata stimolante e coinvolgente tra amici. Una serata di cibo buono e tanti brindisi. Grazie Valentina e alle sue *supervisors*, Stephanie e Claire. Grazie al comitato per l'organizzazione. Grazie a Casa Italia per averci ospitati.



Dalla biblioteca

Cosa c'è di nuovo nella nostra biblioteca?

Three interesting books about Sicily have just been added to our collection: the first deals with Sicilian folklore; the second is a novel about a prominent Sicilian entrepreneurial family; the last is a memoir written by a second generation Australian of Sicilian descent.



Originally published in 1896, *Medicina Popolare Siciliana* by Giuseppe Pitrè, is a study of Sicilian medical traditions, remedies, and beliefs. Pitrè (1841- 1916) was a doctor and folklorist. He pioneered Italian ethnographic studies and is considered a forerunner in the field of medical history. Palermo's *Museo Antropologico Etnografico Siciliano* was founded in his memory. In his youth, he took part in the revolution at Palermo heralding Garibaldi's entry and accompanied the deputation presenting the Sicilian plebiscite to Victor Emmanuel in Naples. For most of his career he was a beloved doctor in a poor quarter of Palermo. He was honoured with a medal for his devoted service during two cholera epidemics and was among those in Palermo who championed a society to protect animals. But, after his day's work, he would sit up half the night immersed in his other passion, that of recording Sicilian folklore.

Between 1871 and 1913, Pitrè completed his twenty-five volume *Biblioteca delle tradizioni popolari siciliane* which became the template for future folklore research. *Medicina Popolare Siciliana* is part of that collection.

I remember my English grandmother telling me how, in her youth, one was expected to tug the forelock to show deference to the doctor. In Pitrè's Sicily, everybody believed they had valuable medical knowledge and felt empowered to offer advice, even criticizing the advice of doctor. Herbs, prayers, stones, even saliva, were part of their medical repertoire. If one needed help with bloodletting, fractures, abscesses, dislocations, and venereal diseases, one might consult a barber rather than a doctor. If the patient was cured, it was the work of an entreated saint: if he died, that was the doctor's fault.

Pitrè records Sicilian traditional understandings of anatomy, physiology, and hygiene and, in the final section of *Medicina Popolare Siciliana,* he discusses how to diagnose various ailments and folk therapies, such as curing a wasp bite by applying a blade. He undertook this work, not to amuse those with more sophisticated understandings – look what these simple people believe – but with a genuine love of Sicilians and their folklore. *Medicina Popolare Siciliana* is a fascinating book

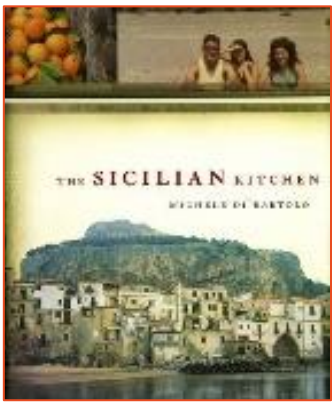
The historical novel, *L'inverno dei Leoni*, by Trapani-born Stefania Auci, was the bestselling Italian book of 2021. It completes the grand, sweeping epic of the Florio family begun in *I Leoni di Sicilia*.

In 1783, earthquakes and tsunami almost destroyed the Calabrian village of Bagnara Calabra, killing more than half the population. The Florio family escaped the devastation and moved to Palermo where they continued the family business, selling, among other things, quinine which was used to treat malaria. Over the next century, their interests grew to include tuna-fishing factories, tobacco and cotton production, shipyards in Palermo, sulfur mines of Caltanissetta, a daily newspaper called "L'Ora" published in Palermo between 1900 and 1992. The paper was known for its investigative reporting about the Sicilian Mafia during the 1950s-1980s. The family also became prominent in the production of Marsala wine and "Cantine Florio" has been in continuous Marsala wine production since 1883.

Dalla biblioteca... continua

From their humble beginnings, the Florio Family became immensely wealthy and powerful and a hotbed of ideas that created an economic and cultural turning point for Sicily. They were a true renaissance family. Ignazio Florio and his wife, Franca Notarbartolo, were famous for the luxury of their parties as well as their love of culture and intellectual exchange with the rest of Europe. Vincenzo Florio, a pioneering racing car driver, created the endurance automobile race, Targa Florio, in 1908. But, by the end of the First World War, the family fortunes were in decline, crippled by taxes and debt. The last of the family, Giulia Florio, died in 1989. Today, Palazzo Florio, their beautiful 19th Century villa on Favignana, is a museum of local history.
Stefania Auci said in interview that through her novels she wanted to express not only the soul of the Florio family but do justice to people who have profoundly marked the history and spirit of Sicilian life. She has created an epic yet intimate tale of power, passion, and revenge as she tracks the rise and fall of this family, and a really good read. We also have the first book in the duology in our library.

The last in our triumvirate of newly acquired books about Sicily is *The Sicilian Kitchen*, by Brisbane born, Michele Di' Bartolo. Written in English, it is part heartfelt family memoir, part travel guide, part cookbook. Di' Bartolo grew up in an extended Sicilian family full of love, laughter, and great times round a communal table. She says the family related to one another by eating together. "It's the glue that brings us all together.".



> *Everything is good. The sun is out, the lemon in my palm is intoxicating, my stomach is full of spaghetti and eggplant and everyone I love is living happily within calling distance of each other. If only it would just stay this way.*

There are sausage-making days involving the whole family and passata days when her grandmother, a *strega* with a giant wooden spoon, stirred red tomatoes in a huge cauldron in the family's backyard. Di' Bartolo's grandmother arrived in Australia in 1959 and it is through her evocative stories that her granddaughter develops her longing for Sicily. When Michele takes her first trip to Sicily, she is immersed in the chaotic brilliance of life, the stark beauty, unfathomable bureaucracies, mad drivers, an exciting romance, and a maze of family relationships. And then there is the three-hour shut down after lunch – a very sensible idea in the Sicilian summer heat.

The Sicilian Kitchen is perceptive and insightful. and perfectly captures the pull that many migrant families feel. It is about culture. family values and. most importantly. food. Most of the recipes are for simple food, prepared and cooked quickly but Di' Bartolo adds descriptions of technique and the enduring rituals of her grandmother's kitchen. Some recipes include ingredients that are not easy to find in Australia. However, the heart of Italian cooking is to use what is fresh, local, and available. I am sure Di' Bartolo's beloved nonna tweaked her recipes when she first arrived in a Brisbane where olive oil was bought in little bottles from the chemist. **Happy Reading**

Un bel sabato pomeriggio un affiatato gruppo di studenti amanti dell'opera, alcune insegnanti della Dante e un paio di persone all'opera per la prima volta, sono andati al teatro per vedere la spettacolare *La Traviata.* All'uscita si sono incontrati con le professoresse del Liceo 'Vivona' anche loro felicissime di cogliere quest'occasione e godersi la *performance*.