DANTE NEWS

SOCIETÀ DANTE ALIGHIERI

"il mondo in italiano"

Newsletter of the Dante Alighieri Society Inc. Brisbane FEBBRAIO 2022

DANTE ALIGHIERI SOCIETY
26 Gray Street,
New Farm, QLD 4005
Postal address:
PO Box 1350
New Farm, QLD 4005
Phone: 07 3172 3963
Mobile: 0401 927 967
Email:
info@dante-alighieri.com.au
Web address:
www.dante-alighieri.org.au

PRESIDENT
Claire Kennedy
info@dante-alighieri.com.au
VICE-PRESIDENTS
Rosalia Miglioli
r.miglioli@griffith.edu.au
Mario Bono
info@dante-alighieri.com.au
SECRETARY
Colleen Hatch
info@dante-alighieri.com.au
TREASURER
Kay Martin
info@dante-alighieri.com.au
EDITORS
Bernadine e Rosalia

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.

Inside

Dalla Presidente

Lesley Synge

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PRADELLA
Since 1959

Calendario

January 31 – Start Term 1

February 14 – San Valentino

February 25 – Lesley Synge

February 27 – Carnevale

Le donne, i cavalieri, l'armi... è Sartigna ad Oristano!
Il carnevale in Sardegna
http://www.cittaturistica.it/cultura/carnevale/donne-cavalieri-armi-sartiglia-oristano

Dante matters

from the pen of the President…

Cari amici,

A very warm welcome to all members, and especially to all students, both new and returning, with term 1 starting on 31 January. For those who are new to the Dante, your membership entails receipt of this, our monthly newsletter, use of the library and videotheque, regular cultural events and, above all, belonging to our community of lovers of Italian language and culture. And, once we are able to travel freely again (sigh!), your Dante membership will gain you discounted entry into various museums in Italy.

It is not too late to enrol for term 1, and you have the option of participating in class in person or Zooming in. As usual we have courses across a wide range of levels, and Bernadine and our wonderful teaching team are looking forward to welcoming you.

As part of our collective effort to keep everyone as safe as possible, and in line with government regulations, we require that anyone coming on the premises be at least doubly vaccinated and we encourage everyone to wear masks when possible.
Feel free to flash your green tick the first time you come in so that the teachers don't have to ask; we'll keep records so you shouldn't need to do it more than once.
Due to covid our publicity is largely online at the moment; we have not been out leafletting. Check out the great posts Tiziana and Rosalia are putting regularly on our facebook site (https://www.facebook.com/SocDanteBNE) and Instagram, then please like them and share them widely!! Feel free to add a comment about your experience at the Dante, to any of these posts.

We have a number of cultural events already in mind for 2022 and welcome any suggestions you have for types of event or speakers. We start the programme on 25 February with a presentation by Lesley Synge on the life of Fortunato Stablum - an Italian Australian with an unusual story, and the subject of Lesley's prize-winning essay "The Fortunes of Fortunato".

You may remember Lesley's talk at the Dante in 2019 on her book *Signora Bella's Grand Tour*, of haiku poems composed while on a writing residency in Italy. For her presentation this time we will have room for only a few people to be present in person in the Dante rooms (with masks please) and invite everyone else to watch (and ask questions) via Zoom.

The Annual General Meeting of the Society will be on 18 March at the Dante Rooms. Please consider joining the Management Committee – your talents would be much valued! Most of the previous committee members are keen to continue and we are grateful for their vital contribution to the Society, but there is also room for others. We would also welcome any new fundraising ideas.

We had to put off the Bunnings sausage sizzle that was booked for 29 January, due to the risk of contagion and the current rationing of sausages, but we hope to hold one at the end of March. Meanwhile our efforts continue in various other ways, and a new delivery of calico bags will soon grace our merchandise shelves. Thank you for your support of the Dante in the past and over the year to come, as we continue to explore and enjoy Italian language and culture together!

Claire

La Società Dante Alighieri comunica ai propri soci che, grazie all'estensione della convenzione attualmente in essere con i Musei Vaticani, fino al 31 dicembre 2022 è possibile usufruire le seguenti agevolazioni e altre ancora:

- **Visita i Musei Vaticani** con il servizio Salta la fila per avere il biglietto a tariffa promozionale per persona di 12,00 + euro 4,00 a titolo di prevendita e prenotazione per l'ingresso agevolato. In abbinamento al biglietto di ingresso avrai il beneficio di acquistare il DVD Arte e Fede al prezzo simbolico di Euro 1,00.
- **Visita Palazzo Apostolico di Castel Gandolfo e i Giardini di Villa Barberini** in minibus con ingresso ridotto.

https://www.dante.global/it/area-stampa/comunicati-stampa/convenzione-museivaticani-7dicembre21

Fortunato Stablum

Cominciamo l'anno 2022 con una presentazione su un uomo italiano che molti di noi forse non conoscono. Un italiano che, come tanti altri, ha passato i primi anni in Australia nella zona centrale del Queensland.

Dante Alighieri Society is pleased to present Lesley Synge on:

Fortunato Stablum – from Val Rabbi to Mount Morgan

FRIDAY 25 FEBRUARY
at 6:00 for 6:30pm
in the Dante rooms
26 Gray St, New Farm

Space is limited, do let us know if you would like to attend in person

Entry fee: a donation

The event will also be available on Zoom, do get in touch by email if you wish to participate: info@dante-alighieri.com.au

When considering the rich history of Italian immigration to Queensland, we tend to think of canecutters in North Queensland. Lesley Synge will share her prizewinning biography of a working man in Central Queensland, based on her article 'Fortunato Stablum: the fortunes of an Italian mining labourer' which was published in the *Queensland History Journal* in May 2021.

Lesley Synge has contributed much to the historical and literary fields in Queensland as a writer and teacher. She presented on her third poetry collection, *Signora Bella's Grand Tour* to the Dante Alighieri Society in 2019.

Notice of Annual General Meeting
of the
Dante Alighieri Society Inc. Brisbane
Friday, March 18
6:30pm – 7:00pm
at the
Dante Alighieri Cultural Centre
26 Gray Street, New Farm

Nominations for the 2022 Management Committee

Nominations are invited from members wishing to stand for election to the Management Committee of the Dante Alighieri Society Inc. of Brisbane. The two nominators and the nominee must be financial members. The term of office of elected members is for one year.
All nomination forms must be in the hands of the Secretary fourteen days before the Annual General Meeting (Rule 27); i.e. by Friday, March 4, 2022.
Nomination forms are available, on request, from the Dante office or at www.dante-alighieri.org.au

Executive Positions:
***President *2 Vice Presidents *Secretary *Treasurer**
Committee Members:
***Editor Dante News *Functions Co-ordinator *I.T. Co-ordinator *Membership Registrar**
***Promotions Officer *General Committee Members**

Dalla scuola

The summer school holidays have come to an end and the school staff are very much looking forward to getting back into teaching the beautiful language and culture of Italy.
We know that you have been keeping up and practising reading, listening, speaking and writing during the long days of sunshine while having fun with friends and family. Or is it just a rumour???
The school has been prepared to begin Term 1, it is dusted and washed ready for get going and yes, the teachers have been sanitised as well!
We will be having our lessons face to face to start unless otherwise directed by governmental changes. Naturally we are also ready to switch and go online if needed.
Because we care for our community, we require all who enter the premises to have been vaccinated for COVID, please ensure you can show proof.
Do let the office know if you intend to return to class at your earliest convenience by sending an enrolment form or just an email with a message, thank you to all that have done so already, very much appreciated.

The calendar and enrolment form for courses in 2022 are now available on the website
www.dante-alighieri.com.au

CORSI Trimestre 1, 2022

	Monday *possible classes*	Tuesday *possible classes*	Wednesday *possible classes*	Thursday *possible classes*	Friday *possible classes*
Morning classes start at 10:00am	☐ Elementare ☐ L 3		☐ L 1 ☐ **C e S**	☐ **L 4** ☐ **L 5** 12:30 start ☐ **C e S**	☐ **C e S 2** ☐ **C e S**
Evening classes start at 6:30pm	☐ L 3 ☐ **C e S 1**	☐ Elementare ☐ **L 4**	☐ L 1 ☐ **L 2**	☐ **L 3** ☐ **L 5**	

LE DATE del 2022

TERM 1	TERM 2	TERM 3	TERM 4
31 January to 8 April	18 April to 24 June	11 July to 16 September	3 October to 9 December

We have classes on public holidays, the school always offers classes on these days.

The Calendar for 2022 and the enrolment forms are available on the website at this link:
https://dante-alighieri.com.au/home/

Come sempre durante l'anno saranno offerte allettanti attività come Cineforum, Book Club, Gastronomia, Conversazioni, Giornata d'immersione e quant'altro riusciremo a fare.
Ci farebbe molto piacere sentire qualche vostro suggerimento e le vostre idee su ciò che vi interessa.

La scuola è Centro Certificatore PLIDA

Il certificato PLIDA (Progetto Lingua Italiana Dante Alighieri) attesta la competenza in lingua italiana come lingua straniera. Per esempio questo certificato è necessario per richiedere la cittadinanza italiana oppure per iscriversi all'università in Italia.

PLIDA
L'italiano scritto. Parlato. Certificato.
SOCIETÀ DANTE ALIGHIERI
IL MONDO IN ITALIANO

Dalla corrispondente in Italia

Cari amici della Dante,

Spero che abbiate cominciato questo nuovo anno nel migliore dei modi possibili, tenuto conto della pandemia purtroppo ancora presente nelle nostre vite.

Per me l'anno è iniziato in modo molto bello, in Italia, circondata da familiari ed amici che non vedevo da due anni e mezzo. Sono partita da un aeroporto fantasma, con negozi e bar chiusi, e sono atterrata dall'altra parte del mondo in un aeroporto stranamente tranquillo, ma l'abbraccio delle persone care ha scaldato e illuminato una giornata peraltro grigia e piovigginosa.

Piazza della Loggia a Brescia

Trascorsi i due o tre giorni canonici di sfasamento da fuso orario, ho fatto una gita a Brescia e per la prima volta ho preso la metropolitana che adesso ti porta in diversi punti della città in modo veloce ed economico. Ho rivisto le mie care piazze, tra tutte Piazza della Loggia, la preferita, e ripercorso strade con ciottoli di porfido calpestate migliaia di volte nei miei spostamenti giovanili.

Una nuova installazione sotto il Quadriportico di Piazza Vittoria ha attirato la mia attenzione. Si tratta di un grosso rinoceronte sospeso nell'aria e questa è la spiegazione dell'opera di Stefano Bombardieri:

Stefano Bombardieri
IL PESO DEL TEMPO SOSPESO
Quadriportico di Piazza Vittoria, Brescia

"Il peso del tempo sospeso parla di una condizione umana, di uno stato d'animo. L'opera concepita quasi vent'anni fa resta estremamente attuale, soprattutto in questo periodo dove l'emergenza Covid suscita in tutti noi un sentimento di sospensione e di incertezza; la percezione del tempo cambia come muta il nostro stile di vita e il rapporto con gli altri. Il rinoceronte diventa metafora del peso che dobbiamo sopportare e il fatto che l'animale sia imbragato e sospeso nel nulla enfatizza questo momentaneo distacco dalle nostre abitudini e dalle nostre certezze. Un fatto inaspettato, un estremo dolore – come un'estrema gioia – fan sì che, in qualche modo, si esca da noi stessi, dal nostro corpo alla ricerca di un punto di vista privilegiato dal quale osservarci in rapporto con gli altri e con il mondo che ci ospita. Il rinoceronte siamo noi, in questo momento sospesi, imbragati e bloccati ma pronti a riappoggiare i nostri piedi sul terreno."

E sì, questa sensazione di "tempo sospeso" ha caratterizzato il mio ritorno a casa questa volta: gli italiani indossano le mascherine, sorridono con gli occhi ma non si toccano, non si abbracciano e stanno a debita distanza quando si salutano e parlano del più e del meno. E "il più e il meno" purtroppo è ancora l'andamento e la gestione dell'ennesima ondata del virus, la ripresa delle scuole a singhiozzo (un giorno in presenza e il successivo in DAD, a seconda del numero di positivi, che sono veramente tanti), le polemiche di chi è per le vaccinazioni e chi no e, dulcis in fundo, l'elezione del nuovo Presidente della Repubblica!

La "nostra corrispondente" a colazione

Ma siamo positivi… pardon, OTTIMISTI; alla fine tutto andrà bene e presto ritorneremo tutti "a riveder le stelle".

Rosalia

Andrea Stombuco

In the 1950s and 1960s New Farm was known as “Little Italy”, but the forerunner of the Italian influence on the area was that renowned architect, monumental mason, sculptor and builder Andrea Stombuco.

Born in 1820 in Florence, Stombuco left Italy as a young man and, after extensive travels in Europe and Africa, the discovery of gold brought him to Victoria in 1850. After 25 years in the southern states, he moved to Brisbane, where he received many important architectural commissions from Bishop O’Quinn; among them St Stephen’s Cathedral, St Joseph’s College, All Hallows’ Convent, the former Holy Cross Church, Her Majesty’s Theatre and Palma Rosa to name but a few.

It was, however, in New Farm where he designed and built two homes for himself: “Bertholme” at 73 Moray Street, which today is the home of The Moreton Club; and his later residence “Briar House” at 15 Lechmere Street.

The migration of Italians to Queensland dates from 1877 and by 1933 Queensland had the largest number of Italian-born residents in Australia. With the post-war building boom of the 1950s Brisbane, in particular New Farm, became home to the majority of these people, many moving down from North Queensland.

Dr Francesco Castellano, (to whom the Brisbane Dante owes its post-war revival) was a trusted, professional medical practitioner who established a practice first in Langshaw Street and later at 303 Bowen Terrace. It was his reputation and popularity that attracted a great proportion of the Italian settlers to New Farm and even the Italian Consulate was located at Carramar Corner, where Merthyr Road meets Moray Street.

The next time you come to the Dante, have a look at the plaque round the corner of the Casa Italia building, which records the names of Italian immigrants to Queensland from 1921 to 1967. While New Farm has changed and developed greatly over the years, the Italian community has made and continues to make an indelible mark on the place. It is evident in the cafes, the restaurants, the cuisine, the arts, the politics and the fact that you can still hear Italian conversations in the shops and on the streets.

https://www.taylorarchitects.com.au/Biographies/AG%20Stombuco%20for%20AIA%20(WA).pdf
https://www.mustdobrisbane.com/visitor-info-arts-culture-history/bertholme-new-farm
https://www.onthehouse.com.au/property/qld/new-farm-4005/15-lechmere-st-new-farm-qld-4005-3114489

Judi

Dalla biblioteca

Cosa c'è di nuovo nella nostra biblioteca?

Consider your origin. You were not formed to live like brutes but to follow virtue and knowledge.
Dante Alighieri, The Divine Comedy

We have recently acquired an interesting edition of *La Divina Commedia*. Dante's masterwork, one of the greatest works of world literature, tells of his journey through the afterlife, lead first by the poet Virgilio, then by Beatrice, a woman who Dante loved throughout his life despite having met her only briefly and, finally, by Saint Bernard, Abbot of Clairvaux, patron of the Knights Templar and beekeepers.
The narrative poem is divided into three parts - *l'Inferno, Il Purgatorio,* and *Il Paradiso* – and has been a source of inspiration for artists, performers, and thinkers for almost seven centuries.

Last year, for the seven hundredth anniversary of the death of il Sommo Poeta, celebrations were held throughout the world including a symbolic re-trial of Dante Alighieri held in Florence to posthumously clear his name, and a three-part ballet called The Dante Project danced by the Royal Ballet.
Here at Società Dante Alighieri, Brisbane, we took part in the national seminar series "Dante under the Southern Cross" presented by the Dante Alighieri Society committees around Australia.
It was a most successful evening.

We have several copies of *La Commedia* in our library; in Italian, English and bi-lingual editions. But this new edition interested me. The first parts – *Inferno* and *Purgatorio* - are presented in four handsome volumes, beautifully illustrated and bound in red leatherette with gold embossed decorations on the spine. But the third part, *Paradiso*, is in 16-page magazine format, each with a numbered cover. It has the same sumptuous illustrations and quality paper and I could see how, by removing the cover, the magazines could be easily bound to create volumes to match the first two parts. Had the whole thing come in magazine form?

I showed Rosalia the magazines and before I could ask a question, she began enthusing as only Rosalia can enthuse. These magazines had been distributed in the newspaper, Corriere della Sera, in 1963, at the low price of 250 lire - imagine being able to buy such a beautiful thing for such a price!

Rosalia recalled her excitement when as a youngster, she looked forward to her weekly culture fix from the newspaper – not just great works of literature but lives of great musicians in serialised form. I could understand her enthusiasm – how wonderful to find something so glorious in your morning paper instead of the depressingly prosaic "lifestyle" supplements that tumble from our own Sunday Mail.

Dalla biblioteca (continua)

A newspaper is in the information and advertising business so it may seem rather strange when a newspaper decides to enter the culture business. However, that was a marketing decision and, as revenue from advertising was declining due to the internet, it was a decision made by nearly every Italian paper.
La Repubblica, in Rome, with a daily circulation of 625,000, began selling a series of 20th-century literary masterpieces with the daily newspaper in the early 2000s, at a cost of 4.90 euros each. And the strategy has been a phenomenal success, despite Italians not being known as great readers.

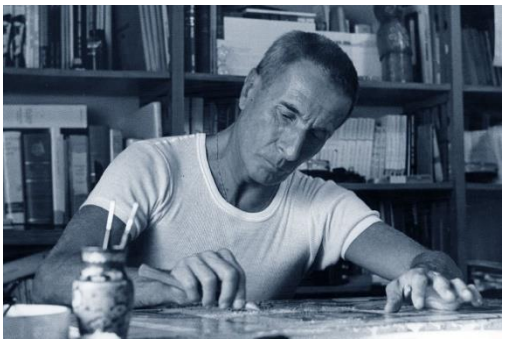
When Corriere della Sera, with a daily circulation of 686,000, offered a book by the Chilean poet, Pablo Neruda, for 5.90 euros, it sold more than 250,000 copies. That is noteworthy sale even for such a wonderful poet. According to the Associazione Italiana Editori, almost half of the books sold in Italy are sold with newspapers and magazines at the 40,000 edicole throughout Italy.

Newspapers in other countries have embraced this marketing strategy but none have been as successful as the Italians. It has raised circulation, brought an infusion of cash, reinforced newspapers as prestige brands, and brought Italians together with great works of literature. There has been the occasional hiccup, for example when Il Giornale, owned by the Berlusconi family, distributed free copies of an annotated version of Adolf Hitler's Mein Kampf in its Saturday edition. The then Italian prime minister, Matteo Renzi, described the decision as squalid.

One can only wonder what effect this success will have on book publishers and authors. Newspapers have lower costs, effective distribution networks and choose well-known and proven titles rather than finding and investing in new authors. It will be interesting to see where readers are being led.

If you would like to peruse our new La Divina Commedia, you will find it in the reference section. It can be read in the library but not borrowed.
If you want to really get to grips with Dante, look in the 8oos – Dante's Dewey Decimal number is 851.1.

Happy Reading



Il 28 gennaio 2022 ricorre il cinquantesimo anniversario della morte di Dino Buzzati (Belluno, 16 ottobre 1906 - Milano, 28 gennaio 1972), scrittore italiano tra i più fantasiosi e poliedrici del Novecento italiano, conosciuto soprattutto per il suo capolavoro, IL DESERTO DEI TARTARI del 1940.
Ma Buzzati è stato anche giornalista per Il Corriere della Sera, drammaturgo, poeta, pittore, costumista, critico d'arte e autore per l'infanzia. Durante tutto quest'anno avremo modo di esplorare il suo mondo nelle sue innumerevoli sfaccettature. State con noi!

In alto: Dino Buzzati
A sinistra: una delle prime edizioni del suo libro e il suo quadro del duomo di Milano