

migrating objects

material culture and italian identities



CALANDRA
ITALIAN
AMERICAN
INSTITUTE

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

APRIL 29-30, 2016

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material culture and italian identities

This interdisciplinary conference focuses on material culture in the contexts of Italy, its colonies, and its diasporic communities. Material culture, broadly defined, includes all objects and things modified by humans, from the hand-crafted (a crocheted doily) to a mass-produced, factory-made object (Olivetti typewriter), including the visual arts (the Sistine Chapel), architecture (Fascist colonial modernism in the Eritrean capital Asmara), and landscapes (a Little Italy).

Material culture is inextricably tied to social identities that are negotiated, reproduced, or contested within different regimes of value whether it be domestic spaces, popular culture, sacred realms, or the world of commodities. How objects are used to communicate, store memories, and elicit narratives in interpersonal contexts are the concern of this conference.

Material culture studies recognizes how objects are made and subsequently move from one environment to another. The migration and recontextualization of things provide opportunities for transvaluation, when new and evolving meanings are ascribed to inanimate objects at the same time that pre-existing ideologies linger in new places.

THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 2016

6:00–8:00 pm

Welcome & Reception

ANTHONY JULIAN TAMBURRI, Dean, John D. Calandra Italian American Institute
VITA RABINOWITZ, Executive Vice Chancellor (CUNY)
FRANCESCO GENUARDI, Consul General, Consulate General of Italy in NY

FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 2016

9:00–9:30 am Coffee & pastries

9:30–10:25 am

The Painted Object CONFERENCE ROOM

Chair: SIÂN GIBBY, John D. Calandra Italian American Institute, Queens College (CUNY)

His Paintings Are Our Clues: The Works of Donatus Buongiorno (1865–1935),
JANICE CARAPELLUCCI, Carapellucci Design

Pinkie and Blue Boy: Non-Italian Material Culture in the Italian Immigrant Household,
DENISE SCANNELL GUIDA, New York City College of Technology (CUNY)

10:40 am–12:20 pm

Statuary and Monuments, Cemeteries and Memorials

CONFERENCE ROOM

Chair: CHRISTINE ZINNI, College at Brockport (SUNY)

Commemorating Italian Soldiers Who Fell in Crimea: The War Memorial in Istanbul as a Community Cohesion Symbol, FRANCESCO PONGILUPPI, Sapienza University of Rome

From Italy to the USA: Recontextualizing Historical Art through Italian Statuary, ANGELYN BALODIMAS-BARTOLOMEI, North Park University

From Milan to Pittsburgh: Allegheny Cemetery's Porter Angel and the Mobility of Italian Cemetery Sculpture, ELISABETH L. ROARK, Chatham University

New York Monuments to and by Italian Immigrants, KATE BURNS OTTAVINO, A. Ottavino Corporation

The Narrated Object in Literature LA GALLERIA

Chair: ANTHONY JULIAN TAMBURRI, John D. Calandra Italian American Institute, Queens College (CUNY)

Contemporary Revelations from Renaissance Women Poets, CAROL LEOTTA MOORE-SCHULMAN, University of the Arts

A Black Madonna in Naples: Anna Maria Ortese's *L'Infanta sepolta*, AMELIA MOSER, *Italian Poetry Review*

Le cose tangibili: Landscape and Cultural Narratives in the Novels of Carmine Abate, VIKTOR BERBERI, University of Minnesota

Object of Desire: Women's Cloth Work as Transnational Symbol of Mobility in Adria Bernardi's *Openwork*, MARY JO BONA, Stony Brook University (SUNY)

12:20–1:30 pm Lunch on your own

1:30–2:45 pm

Keynote CONFERENCE ROOM

Introduction: ANTHONY JULIAN TAMBURRI, John D. Calandra Italian American Institute, Queens College (CUNY)

Fear of the Gavon: *Brutta Figura*, Material Culture, and the Making of Italian American Identity, JOSEPH SCIORRA, John D. Calandra Italian American Institute, Queens College (CUNY)

3–4:15 pm

Textiles and Needlework #1 CONFERENCE ROOM

Chair: MARY JO BONA, Stony Brook University (SUNY)

Embodied Femininity: White Lace, Women's Work, and Lives of Feeling in a Calabrian Town, JOAN L. SAVERINO, Arcadia University

Stitches in Air: Needlework as Spiritual Practice and Service in Batavia, New York, CHRISTINE ZINNI, College at Brockport (SUNY)

La Scuola d'Industrie Italiane: The Theory of Economic Independence for Italian Immigrant Women in the Late 1800s, ROSE MARIE CUTROPIA, Museo + Archivio, Inc.

Recovering Memories and Reclaiming Carmin DeVito's 1949 Home Movie LA GALLERIA

Chair: ROSANGELA BRISCESE, John D. Calandra Italian American Institute, Queens College (CUNY)

Film and roundtable discussion, PATRICIA DEVITO, Buell Kratzer Powell, LORI DEVITO, AET Environmental, and MARIO PERROTTA, CILSI

4:30–5:45 pm

The Transnational Life of Objects CONFERENCE ROOM

Chair: NANCY CARNEVALE, Montclair State University

Re-Framing Photographs, LOREDANA POLEZZI, Cardiff University

Moving Objects: Memory and Affect in Transgenerational Italian Narratives from South America, MARGARET HILLS DE ZÁRATE, Queen Margaret University

Exploring Italian Identity through Cultural Materials Collected in a New Transnational Media Collection, CARLO PIROZZI, University of St. Andrews

SATURDAY, APRIL 30, 2016

9:00–9:30 am Coffee & pastries

9:30–10:45 am

Archives CONFERENCE ROOM

Chair: JEROME KRASE, Brooklyn College (CUNY)

Material Culture at the Center for Migration Studies, MARY ELIZABETH BROWN, Center for Migration Studies

Archival Material on William Foote Whyte's *Street Corner Society*, JAMES S. PASTO, Boston University

The Secret Life of Artifacts: Migration Stories from the Senator John Heinz History Center's Italian American Collection, MELISSA E. MARINARO, Senator John Heinz History Center

11 am–12:15 pm

Colonial Spaces CONFERENCE ROOM

Chair: ANNEMARIE TAMIS-NASELLO, Fashion Institute of Technology (SUNY)

Asmara: Objects in the Mirror, PETER VOLGGER, University of Innsbruck

The Plan for Addis Ababa and the Construction of Imperial Identities, ELISA DAINESE, University of Pennsylvania

Colonial Comics and White Spaces, CRISTINA LOMBARDI-DIOP, Loyola University Chicago

Domestic/ated Objects LA GALLERIA

Chair: NANCY CARONIA, University of Rhode Island

Home in a Fig: Italian American Agrarian Identity in Brooklyn Domestic Gardens, HILLARY LINDSAY, University of Gastronomic Sciences

The Role of Migrating Objects in Older Italian Migrants' Homes in Newcastle upon Tyne, UK, SIMONA PALLADINO, Newcastle University

Objects of Family Life and the Making of Home: A Study of Everyday Objects That Post–World War II Italian and Greek Migrants Brought to South Australia, ERIC BOUVET, DANIELA COSMINI-ROSE, DIANA GLENN, and MARIA PALAKTSOGLU, Flinders University

12:15–1:30 pm Lunch on your own

1:30–2:45 pm

Textiles and Needlework #2 CONFERENCE ROOM

Chair: CRISTINA LOMBARDI-DIOP, Loyola University Chicago

Stitching for Virtue: Material Culture and Wayward Girls from Sixteenth-Century Italy to Twenty-First-Century Bronx, PATRICIA ROCCO, Hunter College (CUNY)

Migrating Objects: From Discarded Artifacts to Resurfacing Memory, FRANCESCA CANADÉ SAUTMAN, Hunter College (CUNY)

Webs across the Ocean: Antique Italian Lace in America, 1900–1930, DIANA GREENWOLD, Portland Museum of Art

Consuming in Print LA GALLERIA

Chair: FRED L. GARDAPHÉ, Queens College (CUNY)

All-Consuming? Citizenship and Consumer Culture in Pittsburgh's *La Trinacria* Newspaper, 1917–1921, LINA INSANA, University of Pittsburgh

Italian Immigration, Criminality, and the Dime Novel, NANCY CARONIA, University of Rhode Island

Patriotic Buyers: Fascist Autarky and Advertising Strategies for Italian American Consumers in the United States, STEFANO LUCONI, University of Padua

3–4:15 pm

Recovering Lost Histories CONFERENCE ROOM

Chair: ROBERT OPPEDISANO, Editor

The Precious Things of Humble Folk: A Case of Trans-Atlantic and Intergenerational Migration of Material Culture, JOSEPH J. INGUANTI, Southern Connecticut State University

Mining the Archives: Memory and Materiality in the Lives of Sacco and Vanzetti, MICHELE FAZIO, University of North Carolina at Pembroke

The Art of Making Do: Creative Expression and the Material Culture of Italian POWs in the United States During World War II, LAURA E. RUBERTO, Berkeley City College

The Neighborhood as Landscape LA GALLERIA

Chair: JAMES S. PASTO, Boston University

DIY Texts: How American *Italianità* Is Constructed in Youngstown, Ohio, ANTHONY D. MITZEL, University College London

The Artifacts of Haarlem House/LaGuardia Memorial House: Memorable and Tangible, LULU LOLO PASCALE, Independent Scholar

The Italians of Brooklyn Revisited, JEROME KRASE, Brooklyn College (CUNY)

4:30–5:45 pm

Consuming “Italian” through Food CONFERENCE ROOM

Chair: DONNA M. CHIRICO, York College (CUNY)

Take the Cannoli: The Commodification of Italian and Italian American Culture at Mazzaro Italian Market, St. Petersburg, Florida, JACQUELINE MAGGIO-MAY, Florida Humanities Council

Ice Cream Parlors in Germany Run by Italians from the Zoldo Valley, ANNA MARIJKE WEBER, RWTH Aachen, and BENEDIKT BOUCSEIN, ETH Zurich

Going to and from Eataly: Importing and Exporting Italian Identity and Culture Through Food, Wine, and Other Migrating Objects, RON SCAPP, College of Mt. St. Vincent