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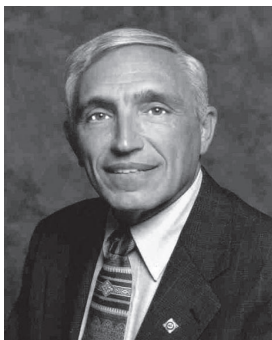
Open Letter from the President/ Chairperson for the Booklet

October 2008

Dear Friends:

Welcome to the 32st annual celebration of Italian Heritage and Culture

Month. This year we will celebrate the 500th anniversary of Andrea Palladio's birth. Therefore, the Board of Directors has selected "***Andrea Palladio: Architect For The Ages - 1508-1580***" as the official theme for the celebration.



The IHCC-NY, Inc. joins the world in celebrating the genius of Andrea Palladio, one of the most influential and imitated architects of all times. Born Andrea di Pietro della Gondola in Padova, in the Republic of Venice, Palladio began his career as an apprentice stonecutter at the age of thirteen years and by sixteen years of age was working in nearby Vicenza with the leading masons and stonecutters under the patronage of Count Gian Giorgio Trissino, his mentor and patron. It was Trissino who first called him Palladio, a reference to the Greek Goddess of wisdom, Pallas Athene. Palladio was given his first work on a building project by Trissino and through his direction studied and traveled to Rome where he was inspired by classical Roman architecture. Thus began his style, after which an entire movement was named: Palladian, most remarkable for its beauty, harmony and use of columns, domes, arches, pediments and a flattened classical portico. Subsequent commissions from the richest Venetian society brought him fame and more commissions, so that his body of work included country villas, urban palaces, civic structures, churches and bridges. He compiled his knowledge into the treatise *The Four Books of Architecture*, translated into English in 1715, one of the most definitive works on architecture.

His work was and still is admired, copied and interpreted by architects, especially in England, Ireland and America. The great English architect Christopher Wren borrowed from Palladio for London's magnificent structures, such as

St. Paul's Cathedral. Thomas Jefferson specifically drew his plans for Monticello after Palladian designs. One can find examples of Palladian architecture, especially in all of the glorious columned and domed buildings in Washington, DC and Virginia, but also in several in Baltimore, New York and elsewhere. In greater New York, to mention only a few, the Grand Central Station, Harvard Club and Morgan Library are in the Palladian style while the Hudson City Savings Bank, Hudson Columbia Courthouse and Plattsburgh City Hall all enjoy Palladian architecture.

Throughout 2008 there are celebrations worldwide to commemorate Palladio's work, most notably in Italy beginning with the Italian National Committee *Andrea Palladio 500* events and several sponsored by the Institute of Classical Architecture and Classical America in New York. A comprehensive Palladio exhibit, curated by the Centro Internazionale di Studi di Architettura Andrea Palladio, Vicenza, and the Royal Academy of Arts, London, shown in Italy throughout 2008, will travel to England and America in 2009.

You are enthusiastically and wholeheartedly invited to join us in this celebration to partake of, and participate in, as many activities listed in the calendar of events as you can. With us, the members of the Italian Heritage and Culture Committee – NY, Inc., a Board second to none in its enthusiasm and grace of life as Italophiles - I encourage you to celebrate!

Grazie a tutti e buon divertimento!

Joseph Sciame
(Cav.) Uff. Joseph Sciame
President/Chairperson
Mese Della Cultura Italiana
Italian Heritage and Culture Committee of New York, Inc.

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Acknowledgments

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Dott. Renato Miracco, Director of the Italian Cultural Institute of New York and Dott. Berardo Paradiso, President of IACE, for the hospitality and use of the Institute for the purpose of holding our meetings and conducting our administrative operations;

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Cav. Joan Migliori, Assistant Director of Community and International of the John D. Calandra Italian American Institute, Queens College/CUNY and John Dabbene, President and CEO of the Garibaldi-Meucci Museum for Co-Chairing the 2008 Luncheon celebrating the 200th Anniversary of the birth of Antonio Meucci;

Maestro Silvio Amelio, Italian sculptor from Taverna, province of Catanzaro, Italy, for the Leonardo Da Vinci Award sculpture and the medallion mold donated our committee;

Cav. Uff. George Altomare, UFT and IHCC Board Member, for facilitating the distribution of posters and bookmarks to the New York City Public Schools;

Rosa Maria Ponte, Artist from Palermo – “A Journey of the Imagination,” a Special Exhibit of her paintings at the Jolly Hotel, held in May 2008;

Nancy Indelicato, IHCC Board Member for creating the Palladio Crossword Puzzle and assisting with media relations;

And, Gran Uff. Angelo Gimondo, Ph.D., IHCC Founding Chairman, for his ongoing advice and encouragement since 1976 to the present time; and Cav. Uff. Joseph Sciamè, current president/chair, for his willingness to lead this important cultural activity on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Italian Heritage and Culture Committee, N.Y. Inc.

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Leonardo da Vinci Award Recipients

The Leonardo da Vinci Award is the highest recognition given to a distinguished individual who has demonstrated exemplary contributions to the Italian American Community by the Italian Heritage and Culture Committee of New York, Inc.

The Committee is pleased to bestow the Leonardo da Vinci Award for 2008 to:

Louis Tallarini, President
Columbus Citizens Foundation

Prior Recipients:

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Appreciation is expressed to sculptor, Maestro Silvio Amelio, from Taverna, Province of Catanzaro, Italy for The Leonardo Da Vinci Award design.

