

AMERICANS ON ITALY. ITALIANS ON AMERICA

PAOLA GEMME, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH

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RESTATEMENT OF PROJECT

My project, "Americans on Italy. Italians on America" had two components:

- a. A presentation entitled "Drawing the Revolution: Thomas Nast's Sketches of Garibaldi's Expedition to the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies" at the International Conference of the Italian Association of American Studies to be held in Macerata, Italy, on October 4-6, 2007.

- b. Three days of research at the Centro di Studi Americani in Rome on the issue of the birth and development of the discipline of American Studies in Italy.

RESULTS

I was able to reach all my intended goals.

1. In the two months prior to my presentation, I collected and examined Thomas Nast's sketches of Giuseppe Garibaldi's conquest of Sicily and Naples in 1860 published in the Illustrated London News and the New York Illustrated News. This research led to my writing an essay that I presented at the AISNA conference. I am attaching a copy of my essay and accompanying power point presentation for your inspection.

2. I established two promising working relationships. Daniele Fiorentino, the Italian historian who invited me to present a paper in his panel, asked me to expand on my presentation for inclusion in a collection of essays on the cultural and political relations between the United States and Italy around 1870, when Rome became

capital of the newly founded Italian state. The essay is due by the end of December 2007 and the book will be published in 2008. I am attaching Fiorentino's book description and table of contents. Additionally, I was asked by John Paul Russo, Professor of English at University of Miami, to become a reviewer for the journal he edits, Italian America. My first contribution will be a review of Stephen Puleo's Boston Italians (Beacon Press, 2007), due in February 2008.

3. I did research on the development of American Studies in Italy at the Centro di Studi Americani in Rome. Thanks to the collaboration of the librarians, I was able to examine, evaluate, and photocopy more sources than I had originally planned. In addition to the thirteen volumes of proceedings of AISNA conferences since the founding of the association in 1973, I consulted Studi Americani (1955-1980), RSA. Rivista di studi americani (1990-), and Letterature d'America (1980-). While I did not have time during this visit to peruse the other two journals on United States culture published in Italy, Storia nordamericana and Acoma, the investigation of the table of contents and selected articles from the journals I did consult will give me a clear understanding of the interests and methodologies of American Studies as it developed in Italy.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

My plans for Fall 2007 and Spring 2008 are as following:

- a. For the essay in Daniele Fiorentino, ed. Le relazioni fra Stati Uniti e Italia nel periodo di Roma Capitale, I will extend my research on Thomas Nast's representation of political developments in Italy from 1860 to 1870. That will entail consulting Harper's Weekly, the illustrated periodical which hired Thomas Nast upon his return from Europe in 1861, adding about 2,000 words to the present document, and translating the essay into Italian. The preparation of the essay will be my research project for the remainder of Fall semester and the Christmas break.
- b. For the project on the development of American Studies in Italy, I have about 1,600 pages of essays by Italian scholars to read and analyze in terms of subject matter and methodology. I expect the analysis will take all of the time I can devote to research in Spring semester. By May 2008 I intend to be ready to resume collecting materials.

Future plans are as following:

- a. Prepare an essay on Nast's representation of the Italian Revolutions in English for publication in the United States.
- b. Continue research at Centro di Studi Americani in Rome. Specifically, I need to consult Storia nordamericana and Acoma, the two journals I was not able to see during my September 2007 visit. Moreover, I expect the careful reading of the materials gathered so far will lead me to both additional sources and a more specific focus for the research.