

News Letter

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ITALO-AMERICAN SUBVERSIVISM PARALLELS U.S.-NAZI PLOTTING

Italian subversivist activities mushroomed in the dark at the same time that the spotlight of suspicion was trained on the Bund and affiliated swastika agencies of propaganda. And while the gutteral undertones of German dirty work proved a dead give-away, the Italians traveled just as fast and just as far, thanks to their inherent *bel canto*.

Analogous to the Germans who, according to Colin Ross, claim a 20-million stake in the 135-million population of our country, the Italians boast that more than four million persons in the United States -- to quote *Il Corriere della Sera* -- "gaze with faith upon the great Imperial and Fascist Fatherland". However, succumbing to the same fallacy as Americagermans of the Bund type, Mussolitalians strain every effort to overlook that millions of their ex-com-patriots are loyal American citizens. Typical of these is the Mazzini Society, which fights Fascistic subversivism wherever it can, putting out a very effective weekly news letter, called "Mazzini News".

Still adhering to the Goebbels formula, and despite the fact that Italian immigration has virtually ceased, personnel, not only of the Italian Embassy in Washington, but also of all consulates throughout the United States, was enlarged to such an extent that some of these offices now resemble rabbit warrens. Even if the Department of State eliminates a few of the consulates, as it recently did in Newark, N.J., and Detroit, Mich., staffs of the remaining offices are fully able to carry on activities without the slightest dent in their propaganda armor. Many of

GIURAMENTO

"Duce"

7000 Aranguardisti, 600 Balilla e 1200 giovanette, figli d'Italia e Tuoi in terre straniere, oggi nel Foro Romano Ti salutano con la mia voce e Ti rendono grazie.

Grazie d'averci voluti ospiti nella Patria nel giro di questi radiosi giorni: e d'avere, per tal modo, rivelato a noi stessi la parte migliore di noi.

Saperemo, prima d'ora, che la nostra Patria è bella e forte non che fosse tanto forte e tanto bella, né che il suo cuore, dentro il Tuo cuore, ci amasse così.

Ci siamo sentiti arcoliti d'amore, penetrati d'amore, d'energia, di speranza. Abbiamo veduto campagne feroci, piaghe rianate, città che sorgono, nuove grandiose opere accanto alle antiche: la maternità assistita, l'infanzia protetta, Popolo e Stato formanti una forza sola. In bellezza dai luoghi santificata dal vigore delle braccia e dalla luce degli spiriti.

Esempi di lealtà, altività, disciplina, tenacia, ci hanno insegnato chi sono, sotto la Tua guida, gli Italiani di oggi. Siamo, e saremo sempre, orgogliosi d'appartenere a questo popolo, e di sentirlo rispettato, ammirato dalle altre nazioni.

Ti facciamo giuramento di conservarci, per esso, degni d'amore, di non compiere mai atto di bassezza, di dare in qualunque rischio prova di coraggio, nelle più dure avversità prova di fermezza civile: e, se fosse per la Patria, di non indietreggiare dinanzi all'estremo sacrificio.

Duce, non ci dimenticare: noi non ti dimenticheremo Duce, se il Paese avesse bisogno di noi, chiamaci: torremo.

Parlando del popolo italiano, Tu hai detto, Duce, ch'esso e il suo destino sono la ragione stessa della Tua vita. Ebbene, noi non abbiamo altra mira che di meritarci a costo di tutto, d'essere la ragione stessa della Tua vita: cioè d'essere "Italia".

Questo giuramento venne pronunciato alla presenza del Duce la sera del 6 settembre 1933, nel Foro Romano in occasione del saggio ginnico che chiuse il "Campagna Mussolini" dell'anno XI.

Reproduction from Italian textbook, used in Fascist Schools in U. S. This is an oath, which according to the footnote, was rendered in the presence of the Duce on the evening of September 5, 1933, on the Fora Romana on the occasion of the celebrations which closed the Mussolini encampment of the 11th year. Following is a word for word translation of the oath:

"Duce: 7,000 Vanguardas, 600 Balilla, and 1200 Youngsters, sons of Italy and thine in foreign lands, today greet you in the Foro Romano through my voice and give you thanks. Thanks for having wanted us as guests in the Fatherland in the course of these radiant days and for having, in this way, revealed to us the better part of ourselves. We knew before this that our Fatherland was beautiful and strong. If she hadn't been so strong, and so beautiful, her heart would not have loved us so much. We have felt ourselves enveloped by love, penetrated by love, energy and hope. We have seen fertile fields, new cities rising, new and grand works leaning against antiquity, assistance to maternity, protection to infancy, People and State forming a single power, the beauty of these places sanctified by the force of the arm and the light of the spirits. Examples of loyalty, activity, discipline, tenaciousness, have indicated to us that they are, under your guidance, the Italians of today. We are, and we always will be, proud to belong to that people and to know it, respect it, and admire it by other nations. Therefore, we swear to conserve ourselves, to keep ourselves worthy of love, never to commit a base act, to give against any risk proof of courage under the greatest adversity, proof of virile determination, and if it were for the Fatherland never to hesitate from the extreme sacrifice. Duce, don't forget us, we will not forget you, Duce; if the Country should have need of us, call us; we'll come. Speaking of the Italian people, you have said, Duce, that it and its future are the very reasons for your life. Well, we have no other view than to merit at the price of all, to be the same reason for your life; that is, to be 'Italy'."

Mussolini's consulates are managed by "Cultural Agents" -- unscrupulous publicity men and conspiring ring-leaders rolled into one. Their work, coordinated by the Italian Embassy at Washington, proceeds under the direct supervision of Signor Luigi Villari, who was promoted to the Washington post following his valuable service to *Il Duce* while stationed in London.

How highly infectious is the virus of subversivism, as spread by Rome, becomes strikingly evident from the fact that many of the Italian propaganda operatives are immigrants' children who had the good fortune to attend American colleges. Many of these, graduating during years of acute depression, fell easy prey to Fascist arguments. Only too glad to accept positions in the Italian propaganda service, they debased the very education which American Democracy had bestowed upon them.

Caught Red-Handed

After President Roosevelt had made his stab-in-the-back speech, some alert observers in the United States raised their voices in protest of Italian propaganda. By that time, these machinations had grown so bold as to be almost as spectacular as those of the Bundists. Accusing fingers were pointed at the very fountainhead of all Rome-inspired subversivism: The Italian Embassy in Washington. Willy-nilly, Mussolini's Man Friday, in the person of Don Ascanio dei Principi Colonna, had to do something about it, and so he tried to brazen it out. In the light of recent developments, this procedure is not lacking in grim humor, what with Prince Colonna's naval attachée meanwhile kicked out of the country, and whole crews of Italian ships at present under federal indictment for sabotage.

Colonna's attempt at bluffing his way out took the form of a visit to Secretary of State Cordell Hull.

Subsequently, he released a statement for the press which should be re-read, word for word, now that every assertion in it has been given the lie by recent developments.

COLONNA PROTESTS ON ITALIAN CHARGES

Envoy Sees Hull—Inquiry Here Widened—German Agent to U. S. Warns of Reprisals

Stamps to THE NEW YORK TIMES
WASHINGTON, June 14—The Italian Ambassador, Don Ascanio

dei Principi Colonna, protested to Secretary of State Cordell Hull today what he considered to be an

Hull made no public comment on the protest or the news reports that caused it.

After Prince Colonna returned to the embassy the summarized points of his protest were placed in a statement to the press, as follows:

"Some newspapers have today published reports concerning alleged political activities of Italian consuls and Italian nationals in the United States. In connection therewith the Italian Embassy has issued the following statement:

"The Italian consuls have always strictly limited their activities to their local consular functions and the Italian nationals in the United States have always kept the most

impeachable conduct. Keeping them out of the picture of the so-called 'un-American activities' but from any political activity whatsoever.

"The society headed by Signor Felice Felicioni and headed by the press is a political organization. The only political propaganda is the literary, scientific, artistic, and technical, which has been known all over the world since fifty years as an association of persons interested in the Italian language and Italian literature, and it would be utterly posthumous to make it appear as an organization pursuing political purposes. It is a society of men and women, those of any similar association publishing similar titles, as the Alliance Française and the English Speaking Union."

Obviously, then, Il Principi meant to wash his fine Italian hands not only of the whole mess in general but especially in reference to the Dante Alighieri Society and Signor Felice Felicioni, its *Führer*. As to the latter, on May 23, 1940, the official Italian press disseminated from Rome a message of his, addressed to *Il Duce*! It averred:

All the local committees of the Dante Alighieri Society celebrate throughout the Kingdom, in overseas colonies and abroad, at your order and in your name, O Duce, the Day of the Italians of the World. They exalt the benefits that Italian thought, culture and work have given to all countries. They sing hymns of praise to the Duce. Great masses of people in three thousand cities and towns of the Kingdom, have asserted the right of Italy to the very high destiny which you have pointed out. Our Society, especi-

ally in these historic days, is proud of serving the Fascist revolution. It reiterates to you its pladge of unwavering loyalty, ever ready, together with the whole Italian people, to believe, to obey, to fight at your command. (Emphasis by NRS)

In view of such facts, Mr. Hull was promptly heard from in the matter.

Twenty-four hours after Il Principi had waited upon him, the Secretary of State issued a release, reprinted here from The New York Times:

HULL INVESTIGATES FOREIGN CONSULS

Tells of Broadening of Study of Italians Disseminating Fascist Ideology

WASHINGTON, June 15. Secretary Hull revealed today that the government was making a broader investigation of Italian consular activities than that already conducted

by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. He answered press conference questions regarding the protest made yesterday by the Italian Ambassador, Don A. Ciano dei Principi Colonna, against charges made in New York that the Italian Consulate General there was seeking to promote fascism in this country by ideological propaganda.

This revelation, Mr. Hull said, is a confirmation to assembling the true and true facts with regard to reports that some transgressions have taken place. The Italian Ambassador says his, he added, and the facts will show fully what the truth of the reports might be. Mr. Hull said that the Department of Justice report to the New York po-

lice was just one item in the investigation.

Asked whether foreign diplomatic representatives would be forced to observe diplomatic rules of conduct internationally accepted, Mr. Hull replied that each case would be treated on its merits. Presumably, any foreign consular or diplomatic agent found guilty of inappropriate activity would be declared persona non grata and forced to leave the United States.

Secretary Hull remarked that an attempt was being made to ascertain the truth about an interview given out in New Orleans by the German consul there, in which the consul was quoted as saying that Germany would not forget the fact that this country is aiding the Al-

What Der Doktor Ordered

Strictly adhering to *Doktor* Goebbels' formula, most of the contraventions cited against, and emphatically denied by, the Mussolinians, had been committed by members of what once were local organizations and clubs of pre-Fascist vintage. Decent, law-abiding Italian societies, they had flourished, thanks to the tolerance shown them by the American form of democratic government.

Analogous to most Americagerman units now acting as *Einheitsfront* (United Front) under the auspices of the German-American National Alliance, originally non-political Italian clubs, etc., were "coordinated" into a country-wide central body. Proceeding first slyly, then employing brass knuckle tactics, Mussolini's henchmen in the United States eventually muscled their way into practically all these groups, using them as nuclei for subversive agencies.

No sooner had the Mussolinians gobbled up the great majority of completely innocuous Italian organizations, than they proceeded to augment them with new units. Assisted by their official "Cultural Agents", new propaganda cells were set up, camouflaged as *Associazione Ex-Combattenti* (War Veterans), *Mutilati* (Disabled Soldiers), Chamber of Commerce branches, *Dopolavoro* (Strength-through-Joy) groups, additional units of the "strictly literary" Dante Alighieri Society, coordinated branches of The Sons of Italy, and others. The majority of all these locals were eventually organized as *Fronte Unico* (United Front) to serve as 100-percent counterpart to the Americagerman *Einheitsfront*. All these units put on a great show of being social groups, exclusively interested in furthering literature or similar unpolitical endeavors. Their efforts are augmented by great activity on the part of Italian film producers. Many propagandistically important (cont'd. on page 6)

FINE DELL'ANNO SCOLASTICO DEL CIRCOLO DOPOLAVORO

Venerdì della scorsa settimana, al Circolo Dopolavoro B. Mussolini, all'88 Salem st., Boston, si è avuta una cerimonia per la chiusura dell'anno scolastico; ad essa ha partecipato il Console Generale d'Italia, Comm. F. Cancellario D'Alena.

Il maestro di cerimonie, Prof. R. Martino, Vice presidente della Federazione Dopolavoro del Mass., presentò il Console, che distribuì i diplomi e le medaglie d'oro, d'argento, e di bronzo ai migliori alunni, nonché parecchi libri di lettura.

Finita la consegna dei diplomi, i ragazzi e le ragazze, all'ordine della loro insegnante, signora Ada Orlandi, cantarono inni patriottici ed eseguirono scherzi comici.

Il signor Biagio Farese fece un lungo ed applaudito discorso. Il Console prese pure la parola per elogiare l'attività del Circolo e complacerse per il desiderio degli alunni di apprendere la madre lingua.

Fra gli invitati, erano presenti il Vice Console, Cav. S. Vitale, l'addetto culturale Dr. Maglione, l'ispettore Scolastico della Fed. Dopolavoro, A. Francalancia, presidenti di Sezioni degli Ex-Combattenti di Boston ed East Boston, di Circoli Dopolavoro di East Boston, Lawrence, Cambridge, il presidente del Fronte Unico, signor Sulfaro, il Gr. Off. C. Sabelli, il Consigliere municipale Joseph Russo ed altri. Prestava servizio l'orchestra diretta dal maestro Ricciardelli.

From "Gazzetta del Massachusetts", describing commencement exercises of after-school groups.

LETTURE CLASSE TERZA SCUOLE ITALIANE ALL'ESTERO



Front cover of "Reader; Third Class; (for) Italian Schools Abroad."



Il fascio Littorio.

È il segno dell'Italia fascista.
Le verghe riunite e strette insieme significano concordia, unione, amore.
La scure significa coraggio, forza.
Sotto questo segno gli Italiani disciplinati e concordi lavorano per la grandezza della Patria.

THE FASCIO LITTORIO. It is the symbol of Fascist Italy. The twigs bound together in union symbolize concord, unity and love. The blade symbolizes courage, power. Under this symbol disciplined and unified Italians wish for the greatness of the Fatherland.

Parole di Mussolini:

Dovunque è un italiano là è il tricolore, là è la Patria, là è la difesa del Governo per questi italiani.

WORDS OF MUSSOLINI. Wherever there is an Italian, there flies the tri-color, there is the fatherland, and there is the defense of the government for those Italians.



I BALILLA DI MUSSOLINI

Davanti alle file dei Balilla, il Duce è fermo sul suo cavallo bianco...

E tutte le piccole pupille immobili sul Duce favoloso ed umano non si staccano un solo istante - quale amore, quale fervore, quale religione! - dai due occhi magnetici del grande Italiano.

MUSSOLINI'S BALILLA -- In front of the rows of Balillas, Il Duce is immovable astride his white horse. All the young eyes remain fixed on the fabulous Duce. Nothing can distract from him -- what a love, what fervor, what religion! -- from the two magnetic eyes of the great Italian.

① L'Italia deve ancora scrivere pagine gloriose, conquistare altre che siete i soldati e i cattivi di vere queste pagine e raggiun



SOLDATI DELLA PATRIA

④ — Quando sarò grande soldato, anch'io come il babì e vincerò: strapperò al ne e guadagnerò chissà quan

Questo è il sogno questo è il tuo sogno, vivi all'estero.



IL DUC

④ In ogni parte del mondo si ricordano Roma e l'Italia e gran l'ingegno e l'operosità degli Italiani ma si trovano Italiani che ma si sentono tutti figli della

I bambini sono riuniti per il saluto alla bandiera.

Il bimbo più bravo e più buono è porta-bandiera.

Tutti i bambini intonano un inno, poi passano dritti e salutano.

Salutano la bandiera e pensano alla Patria lontana.

Dio assisti ora e sempre l'Italia.

Aiutami, o Dio, a diventare un buon italiano.

The children are united to the salute of the flag. The bravest and the best boy becomes the standard-bearer. All children sing a hymn, then they pass erect and salute. Salute the flag and think of the distant fatherland. God assist Italy now and always. Help me, O God, to become a good Italian.

FROM TEXTBOOKS

1. Italy has pages of glory, CHILDREN, WHO TOMORROW, it achieves these
2. Italian soldier of the 17 grade
3. YOU, TOO, I THIRLAND, but paternal heart fight.
4. Soldiers of when at least I, then SHALL WITH WIN; I shall to oners and I and als of valor! ITALIAN CHILDREN ITALIAN CHILD W
5. A photorep tograph and del DREN GUSTOR OF
6. A child emb
7. The Italian fatherland in nize among the behold with I and they salute bring through the Italian soil an

GLI ITALIANI NEL MONDO

Essi hanno scavato miniere per strappare alla terra i suoi tesori, hanno gettato ponti attraverso i più grandi fiumi, hanno costruito palazzi e officine, hanno creato intere città.

Non c'è paese del mondo dove gli Italiani non abbiano portato la ricchezza del loro lavoro.



THE ITALIANS IN THE WORLD. They have dug mines to wrest from the earth its treasures, they have thrown bridges across the greatest rivers, they constructed palaces and offices, they created entire cities. There is not a single country in the world, into which the Italians did not carry the riches of their labor.

SCUOLE ITALIANE ALL'ESTERO

IL LIBRO DELLA IV CLASSE ELEMENTARE

③ Anche voi, piccoli italiani lontani dalla Patria ma più vicini degli altri al suo cuore di padre, dovete lavorare e lottare ogni.

⑦ I bambini italiani che vivono lontani dalla Patria in tutte le città marine del mondo, riconoscono tra mille le navi italiane, vedono con gioia il tricolore sventolare nel sole e salutano con orgoglio quelle navi che portano nel mondo i prodotti delle terre d'Italia e del lavoro degli Italiani.

⑬ Spesso il pensiero dei bimbi vola lontano coi grandi uccelli bianchi che sfiorano le onde con le ali, vola su quel mare che unisce la loro piccola scuola alla grande Patria ed essi sentono che l'Italia, quando è viva nel cuore, non è lontana.

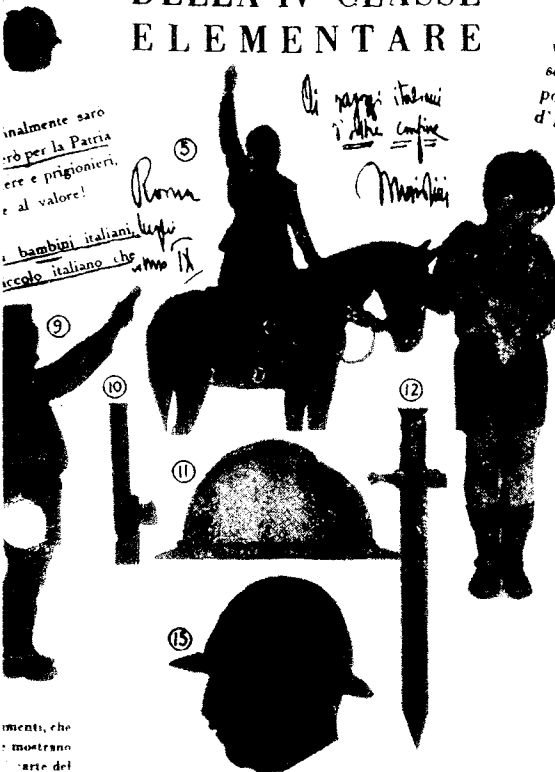
⑯ Quando tutti sono adunati nel vasto piazzale, prima di cominciare gli esercizi ginnastici ed i giuochi, c'è un momento di silenzio e di raccoglimento. Al comando di attenti, tutti, col braccio teso, salutano immobili la bandiera che si alza sul campo, nel sole.

ora altre
i ragazzi
petta s'eri

inalmente sarò
ro per la Patria
ere e prigionieri,
e al valore!

bambini italiani
piccolo italiano che

imenti, che
mostrano
arte del
Patria.



Evviva il mio Re!



IL DUCE

Tutti i bambini italiani amano Mussolini, il Duce che guida la nuova Italia e che senza riposo lavora per il bene della Patria.

Il volto austero del Duce si illumina di dolcezza quando Egli guarda i bambini.

Sanno i bimbi italiani perchè il Duce li ama tanto?

Li ama perchè i bimbi sono le più belle speranze d'Italia, perchè se essi cresceranno forti, laboriosi, buoni, l'Italia anche sarà forte, potente, felice.

IL DUCE. All Italian children love Mussolini, the Duce who leads the new Italy and who works without rest for the welfare of the Fatherland. The stern countenance of the Duce is softened when he looks at children. Do the Italian children know why the Duce loves them so much? He loves them because the children are the best hopes of Italy, because if they grow strong, active and good, Italy will also be strong, powerful and happy.

FASCIST SCHOOLS IN U. S.

write in her history other conquer other lands; TO YOU, FASCISTS AND CHILDREN OF TO WRITE THESE PAGES AND

ITALIANS FAR FROM THE FA-

clearer than others to his soldiers) must work and

atendant. When I am big, older, I, to, as my father, PATRIELAND AND I SHALL in the enemy flags and prison, who knows how many medals IS THE DREAM OF ALL THE is is your dream, LETTERS IN FOREIGN LANDS.

Benito Mussolini, with aun-; TO THE ITALIAN MILITAN BOUNDARIES.

the map of Italy.

er, who live far from the ports of the world, recog- the Italian ships, they -color flyer in the sun pride those ships that world the products of ian labor.

8. Il Duce in "Gloria" helmet.
9. A child giving the Fascist salute.
10. The Fascist insignia.
11. An Italian military helmet.
12. Italian bayonet.
13. Often the thoughts of children fly far away with the large white birds (sea-gulls) that tip the waves with their wings, fly over the sea that unites their little school to the great Fatherland and THEY FEEL THAT ITALY, WHEN ALIVE IN THEIR HEARTS, IS NOT FAR AWAY.
14. In every part of the world there are found monuments, which bring to mind Rome and Italy and the achievement that demonstrates the ingenuity and industriousness of the Italians. And in every part of the world there are found Italians who live far from the Fatherland but who feel they are children of the same great Mother.
15. (Under the photograph of King Victor Emanuel) "LONG LIVE MY KING".
16. Under the photograph of school children in military formation: When all are assembled in the vast square, before commencing the gymnastic exercises and games, there is a moment of silence and contemplation. At the command of attention, WITH ARM EXTENDED, ALL SALUTE AT ATTENTION THE FLAG that is raised above the field, to its place in the sun.

films are regularly brought into the United States (see today's Supplement #142) to further the cause of Fascismo.

Fascismo Goes to School

The Mussolinians were far from being satisfied with merely muscling their way into the adult rank and file. Aping their Nazi mentors, they also committed ideological kidnapping by ensnaring the younger element. To that end, *Il Duce's* emissaries set up *Dopolascuola* (After-School) clubs. By devious means, they attracted boys and girls who would spend their afternoons and evenings there, never leaving without another "shot" of anti-democratic Fascist doctrines administered to them.

Activities of these After-School clubs are most enlighteningly revealed in an article, printed in the *Gazzetta del Massachusetts* (illustration on page 3) of June 15, 1940...incidentally, the very date that Prince Colonna filed his complaint with the Department of State! In translation, this report reads:

END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR AT THE AFTER-SCHOOL CLUB

On Friday of last week, the ceremony for the closing of the scholastic year was held at the Circolo Dopolavoro B. Mussolini, 88 Salem Street, Boston. Among those present was the Consul General of Italy. The master of ceremonies, vice-president of the Dopolavoro Federation of Massachusetts, introduced the Consul, who distributed the diplomas and the gold, silver and bronze medals to the best students, as well as several books. After the presentation of the diplomas, the boys and girls, on order of their teacher, sang patriotic songs and performed comic stunts. Mr. Biagio Farese (one of the Boston radio propagandists...NRS) made a long and well-applauded speech. The Consul also spoke in praise of the club's activities and told his satisfaction over the students' desire to learn their mother tongue. Among the guests were the Vice-Consul, the Cultural Agent, the Scholastic Inspector of the Federation, the presidents of the war-veterans' clubs of Boston and East Boston, of the Dopolavoro Clubs of East Boston, Lawrence and Cambridge, the president of the United Front, a Boston City Counsellor, and others.

Still proceeding according to Goebbels' tested formula, *Il Duce's* Fascists, like *der Führer's* Nazis, blanketed the United States schools with text books, gratis (!). Representative of them is a series of readers, prepared for use from the first (*Classe Prima*) to the fourth (*Classe Quarto*) grade. Especially prepared for *Scuola Italiana All'Estero* (Italian Schools Abroad), they are supercharged with Fascist ideology (illustrations on pages 4 and 5). Most important of all the Mussolini tenets impressed upon youthful minds is an oath of allegiance to *Il Duce*, contained in the Fourth Grade reader. Paralleling a similar exhortation to disloyalty against the United States, as issued by the German Foreign Institute at Stuttgart, it contains such promises of fealty to *Il Duce* as the following:

....*Duce, don't forget us, we will not forget you, Duce; if the country should have need of us, call us; we'll come.*

It is especially noteworthy that this oath is the very same which is usually pronounced in the presence of Mussolini by youth encampments in the *Forum Romanum*, usually attended by "American delegations". In closing, the pledge gives this assurance:

....You have said, Duce, that the Italian people and Italy's future are the very reasons for your life. Well, we have no other wish than to merit, at the price of all, to be the same reason for your life; that is, to be "Italy".

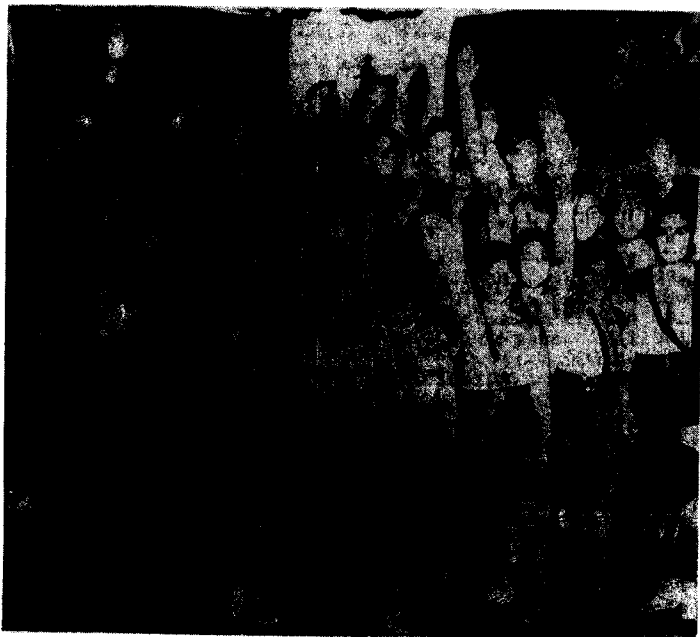
In order to arouse that "Fascist feeling" which induced American-born children of Italian immigrants to swear fealty to *Il Duce*, *Dopolascuola* schools labor fervently. In California alone, there are twelve, of which five are located in San Francisco. Headquarters are at Fugazi Hall, 678 Green Street. These premises are owned by the Italian Consulate. Other schools are located at Corinthian Hall at Mission and Russian Streets; at the Bay View Masonic Hall; in the Marina District and at Colma. President of all California *Dopolascuola* branches is Sylvester Adriano, and his assistant is Father Orresto Galli. Executive head of this propaganda enterprise as a whole is one *Signor Mannu*.

There are instances in which public schools are used for *Dopolascuola* purposes after the regular classes are over. And it is in these buildings, erected with the money of American taxpayers, that Italian-descended children pore over Rome-edited textbooks, containing such material as this:

You, too, little Italians, far from the Fatherland and still closer than others to his (Mussolini's) paternal heart, must work and fight....This is the dream of all Italian children, this is your dream, little Italian child who lives in foreign lands.

Recently, some Fascistic textbooks used in public schools in New York have been withdrawn from use by the Board of Education. Among them are *Andiamo in Italia* by Marrinoni-Passarelli; *L'Italia Nel Passato e Nel Presente* by Capocelli; and *Vita Italiana* by Marrinoni.

L'accoglienza ai piccoli di ritorno dai campeggi italiani



Reproduction from the "Tribuna Italiano d'Americana" of Detroit, Mich. Caption (in translation) reads: "Reception tendered the little ones upon returning from Italian fields."

Andiamo in Italia was withdrawn because, according to James Marshall, President of the New York Board of Education, it contained a discussion of Fascism done "in a propagandistic manner and not as a mere explanation of Fascism". *L'Italia Nel Passato e Nel Presente* was banned because it includes a number of pages of direct quotations from Mussolini, in which he presents his reasons for the Fascist Revolution, the basis of the Fascist economy and of the Fascist State in a propagandistic manner. *Vita Italiana* was withdrawn because of its complimentary descriptions of the *Duce* and of Fascist achievements, including the old story about making the trains run on time. Dr. Frederick Ernst, Associate Superintendent of Schools, stated: "We are not witch-hunting. However, we found the books excessively

laudatory of the Fascist point of view".

Just as American-born offspring of German parents were taken by Colin Ross on vacation trips to the Third Reich, to be indoctrinated with Nazism (as described in NEWS LETTER of January 11, 1940), so descendants of native Italians were induced to partake in pilgrimages to Rome as the shrine of Fascism. Many of them were received by *Il Duce*. They returned to the United States just as thoroughly innoculated with the Fascist virus as German children had been imbued with Nazi tenets. Two Fascist agents were especially active in this field. According to the Italian-American Who's Who, they were The Reverend Carlo Cianci and the publicist Baldo Aquilano.

How well the Fascist virus had "taken" is graphically revealed by a picture (illustration on page 7) which appeared in *Tribuna Italiana D'Americana* of Detroit, showing a group of youthful Fascists enthusiastically rendering the Roman salute upon return from Italy.

Six of One....

As a survey of the Italian propaganda machine in the United States clearly indicates, it constitutes a practically 100-percent replica of Goebbels' subversivism set-up. To put into juxtaposition only six of the most outstanding propaganda agencies:

ITALIAN

GERMAN

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| 1. <i>Fronto Unico</i> , sponsoring Days of the Italians. | <i>Einheitsfront</i> (United Front) sponsoring German Days. |
| 2. Teachers of Italian and American schools go to Italy during their vacations with all expenses paid, to study Fascism. High school students of Italian extraction are sent on vacation to Rome; and books compiled and printed in Italy are distributed gratis in Italian schools in America. | German department personnel in schools and colleges are given trips to Germany "for post-graduate work". German children are sent to the Reich, and books are given free to schools and colleges. See NEWS LETTER of August 3, 1939, and September 21, 1939, respectively. |
| 3. <i>Associazione ex-Combattenti</i> (Italian Veteran Group) | <i>Kyffhäuser Bund</i> (German Veteran Group) |
| 4. Italian Amerital Propaganda Films. | German UFA propaganda films. |
| 5. Italian "after-school" clubs. | German Saturday schools. |
| 6. Signor Macaluso, in triple role of theatre manager, Fascist author and Fascist propagandist. | Herr Ferenz, in triple role of theatre manager, author and Nazi propagandist. |

Each new day yields fresh proof that Mussolinians in America carry on ideological sabotage just as unscrupulously and brazenly as their Nazi accomplices. Driven frantic by continuous "victories in reverse" on the actual field of battle, and at the same time exasperated by America's close scrutiny of their subversive activities, *Il Duce's* emissaries resort even to murder. The recent assassination of John Arena in Chicago clearly indicates what may be expected when Roman ruthlessness rivals Nazi nefariousness.

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FASCISMO SAYS IT WITH MOVIES

With one picture worth a thousand words, Mussolinians could not well afford to overlook propaganda possibilities inherent in films. Accordingly, there are at present active in the United States two Fascist film distributing agencies. One is the Amerital Film Importing and Distributing Corporation; the other, the Esperia Distributor Films. Both have their headquarters in the metropolitan New York district; both specialize in short subjects (illustration on page 2).

There are also two theatres in New York City which have been catering to Italian audiences. One is the Roma Cine Teatro, in existence since 1936. At 1662 Broadway, it is located on the outer fringe of the Times Square district. Roma Cine flourished under the management of the notorious, one-time anarchist, Pietro Garofalo, some of whose exploits were described in NEWS LETTER of June 19, 1940. This member in good standing of, and extreme influence among, The Sons of Italy prospered to such an extent that he found it possible to embezzle amusement tax money. He was subsequently fined \$2,000 and sent to jail for defrauding the United States Government.

The second Italian film house, called Cine Citta, at 250 West 54th Street, was established in 1938. Its management was entrusted to Signor Macaluso, widely known as a Fascist agent who, even as early as 1925, published a Fascist review in Boston called *Giovinezza*. It is interesting to compare his career with that of F. K. Ferenz of Los Angeles, who was exposed in several issues of NEWS LETTER, especially that of January 1, 1941. Ferenz, like Macaluso, acted as manager of a Nazi film house, authored a book entitled "Hitler", and clandestinely maintained "Saturday School" groups.

The general technique of presenting Italian films for propaganda purposes is to show one feature picture, usually free of ideological infusion. To this "bait" are then added two or three "shorts" of propagandistic hue, available through Amerital. Among recent, highly touted propaganda films was one entitled *Il Padre della Patria* (The Father of the Fatherland). According to a synopsis furnished by Roma Cine Teatro, this film shows:

When (in 1860) the soldiers of Italy and France were on the wings of victory and could have flown, not only on Lombardia but also on Venetia, Napoleon III stopped himself and concluded the peace of Villafranca with Francis Joseph (Emperor of Austria-Hungary). It was an historical treachery which did not remain the only instance. The ungrateful Latin sister (France) has given to Italy other examples of such treacherous changes. We have received very bad lessons through the World War and through the Ethiopian War. But above the envy and jealousy, above the deceit and double-crossing, above threat and sanctions, there has been a Genius Protector of the Destiny of Italy; there has been the Wisdom and the Heroism of the Savoy Kings; there was the far-seeing Genius of inimitable Statesmen.


The importance which the Italians attach to film propaganda may be gauged by the fact that *Il Padre della Patria* was produced under the active supervision of *Il Duce* who, to quote the wording of the advertisement, "found time from other duties to do considerable collaboration on this Amerital production".

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THEATRES OF ITALY

Activities of Italian film propaganda are graphically illustrated by (1) broadside, issued by Amerital Film, offering prospective exhibitors 15 different feature releases; (2) list of short subjects offered by the official Italian film propaganda agency; (3) front page of program of Roma Cine Teatro, presenting "The Father of the Fatherland".

Index to additional information on names and facts mentioned in NEWS LETTER will be furnished quarterly.