

The Oxford Italian Association

TOIA NEWSLETTER NO. 73

January – March 2015

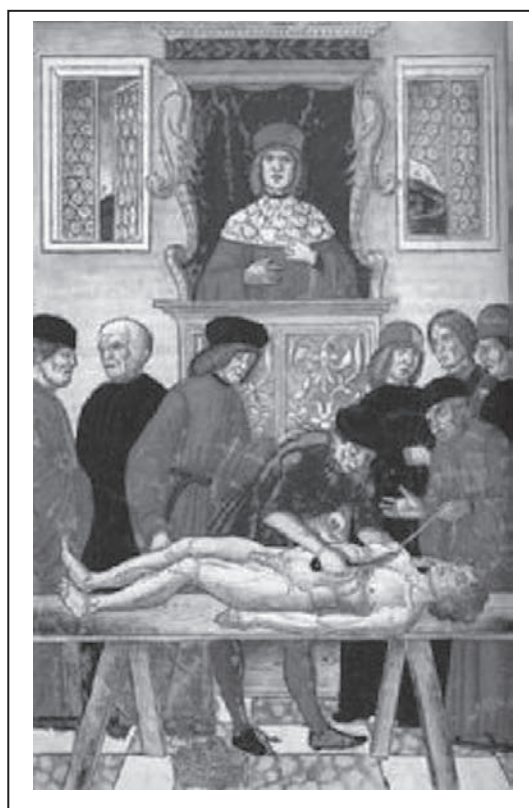
LEONARDO DA VINCI IN THE HISTORY OF DISSECTION

Lecture by Professor Helen King

The drawings of Leonardo da Vinci held in the Royal Collection contain an extraordinary range of images of the human body and of parts of that body. These were made at precisely the time when human dissection was becoming a standard part of the medical curriculum and Leonardo's friendship with the physician Marcantonio della Torre clearly allowed him access to cadavers.

However, how far were his drawings based on real human materials, and how far on his imagination? In the latter case, how do they allow us to gain some sense of his beliefs about the body, based on both classical and medieval sources? Can we reconstruct his access to printed materials, including medical textbooks? And what about the anatomical book which he planned to write, but never completed?

Helen King is Professor of Classical Studies at The Open University and also teaches the history of human dissection as a Visiting Professor at a medical school. Her main research interests are the history of gynaecology and the reception of ancient medicine in Renaissance and early modern Europe. She took part in the planning of the exhibition 'Leonardo – Anatomist'



which took place in London and then in Edinburgh as the Royal Collection's contribution to the London Olympics' year, and worked on the audio guide and the prize-winning app.

**Wednesday, 28th January, 2015
7.30 for 8.00 p.m.**

**Mary Ogilvie Lecture Theatre,
St. Anne's College**

**Members £2, non-members £5,
students under 30 free**

**For parking, please try Bevington Road
and adjacent side roads**

Cinema



Il capitale umano

Directed by Paolo Virzì

106 minutes' duration, in Italian with English subtitles

Paolo Virzì's stylish drama was Italy's official submission for the 2014 best foreign language film Oscar.

Looking at an unfolding accident from several different perspectives, the twisty narrative charts the complex interactions between a wealthy banking dynasty, a cash-strapped middle-class family, a troubled young man and an unhappy troupe of warring artists, all of whose fortunes are variously intertwined by unwise investments, both personal and financial.



It's an elegant Chinese puzzle of a film, deftly constructed by the director, and boosted by an array of strong performances. Valeria Bruni Tedeschi, in particular, is terrific as the wealthy but miserable wife who pours her energy into a crumbling theatre as fragile as her own marriage. The recipient of numerous awards in Italy, this is a handsomely mounted film, garlanded with critical success.

*"Volevo far emergere il mondo dei benestanti,
quelli che hanno investito sul fallimento di questo paese"*

Paolo Virzì

**Showing at the Sadler Room, Rewley House, Wellington Square,
Friday, 23rd January, 8.00 p.m. Admission £2 a head.**

Possible Cancellations of TOIA Events

In the event of unusually bad winter weather, meetings may have to be cancelled or postponed.

We have only extremely rarely had to take this step, but if you are planning to attend a TOIA meeting in the heart of winter and weather conditions seem to you very unfavourable, please consult the website to make sure that the meeting has not had to be cancelled.

This would be the only manner in which we could get in touch with you all at short notice.

If there is no notification by noon on that day, you may assume that we intend to go ahead! Our website address is www.toia.co.uk

Or you might ring Patricia Milner, the Hon. Secretary, at Oxford 377479.

Bk

Date : Thursday, December 11, 2014 1:24:05 PM

JOB : 334031

Recorder : OutlinePDF-Advance, Screen : None-None-NONE

AN INTRODUCTION TO SARDINIA

Presentation by Robert Andrews

Sardinia, the second largest island in the Mediterranean, is unmistakably Italian, yet subtly and thrillingly different. It is overlooked by most visitors to Italy, and those who do know it are only familiar with its connotations as a playground of the rich and the location of Berlusconi villas for his 'bungabunga' parties. But there is far more.

The island's complex history – from its obscure nuraghic civilisation to Mussolini's attempts to revitalize its economy – has given it a unique character, while its rural traditions are perpetuated by colourful and often bizarre local festivals.

Robert Andrews attempts to demystify Sardinia through a broad look at its history, art, literature, food, music and rural culture.



Robert Andrews is a journalist and the author of a number of travel guides to southern Italy and its islands – Sardinia in particular. He also runs Sardinian Experiences – specialising in language-learning, culture and activity holidays based in the west-coast river-port of Bosa.

**Wednesday, 18th February
7.45 for 8.00 p.m.
Pauling Centre,
58a Banbury Road
Members £2, non-members £5,
students under 30 free
For parking, please try Bevington
Road and adjacent side roads**

ONE NAME FOR EACH THING – PER OGNI COSA UN NOME

Nicola Gardini and Nicolas Moureaux

Nicola Gardini will read from his latest poetry book, "Stamattina" (2014), a moving meditation on time and language. **Nicolas Moureaux** will accompany him on the flute, playing pieces by Bach, Debussy, Poulenc, and others. The poems are going to be in Italian.

NICOLA GARDINI (pictured right) is the author of numerous books (novels, memoirs, poetry collections, literary essays, and translations from English, Latin and other languages). His novel *Le Parole Perdute di Amelia Lynd* received the prestigious Viareggio Prize in 2012, and will appear in America next year. His essay *Lacuna*, a very original discussion of omissions and silences in literature, is going to be published at the end of September. He teaches Italian Literature at the University of Oxford. He is a Fellow of Keble College. His official website is www.nicolagardini.com.

NICOLAS MOUREAUX studied the flute and the piano at the National Conservatory of Music of Lyon, France. He took master classes with Maestro Emiliana Parenzi Colombo at the Scuola Musicale of Milan. He has performed in numerous venues



around Italy and France. He is especially active as a flute-player for the Cultural Association "Artisti in Prima Linea", based in Milan, which he founded with numerous other musicians and artists in 2006. "Artisti in Prima Linea" believes in the cooperation of all the arts and promotes the diffusion of music, literature, painting, and dance in all layers of society by organizing charity concerts and events.

**Thursday, 26th February
7.45 for 8.00 p.m.
Pauling Centre,
58a Banbury Road
Members £2, non-members £5,
students under 30 free
For parking, please try Bevington
Road and adjacent side roads**

VINI ITALIANI: LA SFIDA NORD/SUD

On Tuesday, **3rd March at 8.00 p.m.**,
Graham Harding will inaugurate a
new series of TOIA wine tastings at
the **St Margaret's Institute,**
30, Polstead Road (next door to
The Anchor Pub).



This tasting will be a North/South challenge. After an opening glass of *vino spumante*, there will be four pairs of wines; each pair having one wine from the North of Italy and one from the South. Most of us have regional preferences for wines and we want not only to demonstrate Italy's extraordinary vinous diversity, but to challenge some of those preferences. So, there will be a mix of the well-known and (generally) less well-known; both whites and reds, at different price ranges, for you to savour and assess.

Graham, a TOIA member for a number of years, has run many tastings in Oxford and has been the programme manager for the City's Wine Club for a number of years. He is author of the successful *Wine Miscellany* (published in a number of countries worldwide - including France!) and is currently doing a doctorate in the history of champagne at Oxford.

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM WITH YOUR PAYMENT AND A STAMPED, SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE. ADMISSION WILL BE BY TICKET ONLY – TICKETS WILL BE SENT TO YOU IN ADVANCE. To: Hon. Secretary, The Oxford Italian Association, The White House, Middle Street, Islip, Oxford. OX5 2SF

I would like to buy tickets for the Wine Tasting on Tuesday, 3rd March 2015 @ £15 each. I enclose my cheque for £..... made payable to 'TOIA'

NAMES OF THOSE WISHING TO ATTEND

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Possible *Conversazione*?

Would you be interested in practising your spoken Italian over a pizza or drinks one evening in early February 2015? If so please contact Patricia Milner and if enough people respond, we shall arrange something congenial to you all.

Urgent Appeal for Volunteers to Replace the Retired Secretary

After 17 years in the office, Patricia Milner has resigned as Honorary Secretary of the Association. In spite of her resignation, she continues to find speakers and organize events. Although Patricia is willing to continue to do some secretarial duties, she cannot continue to perform the duties of Honorary Secretary beyond the end of the academic year 2014/15. There is, therefore, **an urgent need for an organising secretary to oversee and co-ordinate the work in order for TOIA to continue with its rich and varied programme.** If you are willing to undertake this, or to share the role with others, please get in touch with the Chairman at: martin.mclaughlin@magd.ox.ac.uk or contact Patricia Milner for more information as to what the role entails. Your support and help would be wholly welcome.

Italian Studies at Oxford

Italian Studies at Oxford (ISO) is an interdisciplinary network of scholars working on Italy at the University of Oxford. All TOIA members for whom we have a current email address will have been receiving regular notification of the seminars, films and other activities organized by ISO. TOIA has close connections with this body through our Chairman, Martin McLaughlin, and we have many other members in common. Members of TOIA are welcome at many of the meetings ISO arrange. Please consult their website: www.italianstudies.ox.ac.uk

Italian Language Weekend, OUDCE, 15th-16th May, 2015

Do you want to give your Italian a boost? Come and join us for an interactive and fun language weekend! Nine hours of face-to-face teaching in small group classes. With six different levels to choose from, take this opportunity to become more confident by practising and consolidating your oral skills in Italian. Go to www.conted.ox.ac.uk for more information.

Italian Language Teaching

Experienced native-Italian speaker and retired headmaster offers tuition, conversation, grammar, literature, help with exams at all levels of the language, from virtual beginner to University student. **Tel 01865 559299**

Accommodation in Venice

Family apartment, Dorsoduro. Sleeps up to eight – 3 doubles, 2 singles, 2 bathrooms, and terrace for meals. To rent for one week minimum or more. Please contact Margaret Pianta. **Tel 0149 4873975** or email pianta@btopenworld.com

House to rent near Todi

3-bedroom, 2-bathroom house, with pool. 15% discount to TOIA members, out of main holiday season. Private setting in countryside in central Umbria. See www.holiday-rentals.co.uk (search on property number 412460) for photographs, details and rates. For further information and availability, please contact Patricia Dugdale on **01844 279242** or patricia.dugdale@tiscali.co.uk

Chianti Holiday Rental

Podere Scopeto in the Chianti hills is available for rent. Main house sleeps 10, small house next to it sleeps 2. Super-long salt-pool with pergolas, sensational view towards sunset. See more at www.poderescopeto.com
Please contact marina@poderescopeto.com or telephone **01367 710486**

Relax in the Mountains of the Abruzzo

Two bedroom house in a medieval village in the Majella National Park – stupendous views from the terrace. From £360 per week. View the property at <http://homepage.ntlworld.com/mary.zajicek/Pacentro.html>

Please contact Mary Zajicek on **01865 469935** or **0797 9964998**, or mary.zajicek5@gmail.com



Ciao was founded by a group of parents, teachers and students of the European School in Culham. What brought us together was the wish to promote the Italian language, culture and traditions among primary and secondary children of the school and beyond.

If you would like to know more about us and what we do please have a look at our site:

<http://ciao-association.org/>

You may like to participate or join us. Thank you for following us.

Flat to rent, Alassio, Liguria

2-bedroom, 1-bathroom flat, within a family-owned villa in Alassio, zona Paradiso, 10 minutes' walk from the beach and the centre of town. For further information and availability, please contact Rupert Parmenter **00 39 331 6139126** or email rupert.parmenter@yahoo.com



Full-immersion Italian language courses in a small hilltop town
info@inmolise.co.uk

www.inmolise.co.uk



Beautiful country house in Southern Tuscany (Maremma). 4 double bedrooms, 3 showers, 1 bath, garden, BBQ.

Peaceful setting in chestnut groves with stunning views of the medieval hilltop village of Roccatederighi which is within walking distance, and has 5 restaurants and a wide range of services.

About 1½ hours from Pisa airport and 35 minutes from the coast with miles of public beaches and pine groves. £500 – £750 p/w depending on timing and numbers. Contact **0775 143 4267** or david@haenlein.co.uk



THE OXFORD ITALIAN ASSOCIATION

TOIA is an Oxford cultural association of those interested in any aspect of Italy, whether language, art, travel, food and wine, or other. No knowledge of the language is required for most of the events of the programme, although one at least each term is in Italian. There are at present about 200 members. At the moment the subscription is £15 renewable each November (£23 for couples, £6 for students under 30, and £6 for “country members” living more than 40 miles from Oxford). A descriptive leaflet with an application form is available from the Membership Secretary. The TOIA Newsletter is sent to members three times a year, before the beginning of each academic term. Please visit our website: www.toia.co.uk

The officers of the Association are

Chair: Professor Martin McLaughlin, Magdalen College, Oxford OX1 4AU
email: martin.mclaughlin@magd.ox.ac.uk

Vice-Chair: Mrs. Patricia Milner, The White House, Middle Street, Islip OX5 2SF
Tel (01865) 377479 email: pmilner@clara.net

(Retiring) Honorary Secretary: Mrs. Patricia Milner, The White House, Middle Street, Islip OX5 2SF
Tel (01865) 377479 email: pmilner@clara.net

Treasurer & Curator of the Rowe Trust: Dott.ssa. Luciana John, 6 Chalfont Road, Oxford OX2 6TH
Tel (01865) 552757 email: lrjohn@yahoo.co.uk

Membership Secretary: Mr. Martin Gray, 106 Eynsham Road, Oxford OX2 9BX
Tel/Fax: (01865) 865476 email: martin.gray9@btopenworld.com

Website contact: <http://toia.co.uk/contact/Newsletter> **Newsletter contact:** toianewsletter@outlook.com



LEARN ITALY

Study holidays in 2015

26 January–1 February: **Florence**

20–25 April: **Bologna**

5–14 May: **Sicily**

If you wish to receive information about these or future holidays, please contact Martin Gray on 01865 860984 or email martin@learn-italy.com

TOIA Diary Dates

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| 23 Jan | Film
Rewley House, 8.00 p.m. |
| 28 Jan | Lecture (Dr. Helen King)
Mary Ogilvie Theatre, St. Anne's
7.30 for 8.00 p.m. |
| 18 Feb | Presentation (Robert Andrews)
Pauling Centre, 7.45 p.m. |
| 26 Feb | Reading and Recital
(Nicola Gardini & Nicolas
Moureaux)
Pauling Centre, 7.45 p.m. |
| 3 March | Wine tasting (Graham Harding)
St Margaret's Institute
8.00 p.m. |