

Sot la Nápe

Around the fireplace

Volume XX, February 2021



Magazine of the Fogolâr Furlan NSW in Association with the Fogolârs Furlans of Australia
with the contribution of the Autonomous Region Friuli Venezia Giulia and the Ente Friuli Nel Mondo.



REGIONE AUTONOMA
FRIULI VENEZIA GIULIA



Photo by Elio Ciol:
Vajont, To Remember

FRONT PAGE;

A tribute to Elio Ciol.

People walking along the ruins of what was, the day before, the town of Longarone.

The picture is one of the series titled: **Vajont, to remember**. Ciol promptly was on site to record the devastation of the disastrous event of the 9th of October 1963 that wiped out the town of Longarone and surrounding villages. It was caused when, after a long period of autumnal rains, the side of Mt Toch collapsed sending an estimated 260 million cubic metres

of earth into the basin behind the dam wall causing a massive 70 metres high wave to flow over the wall and down the gorge below. In 15 minutes it wiped out all in its path leaving behind over 2000 people dead.

It was an avoidable disaster, however warning signs were ignored, and instead there was a focus on keeping all systems running. The reservoir was the water supply for the large hydroelectric power station of Soverzene, owned and operated by ENEL, the Nationalised Electricity Authority.

Michela Colletti, a survivor from Longarone, the worst hit town, remembers the night she lost her parents, her sister and her grandmother.

"My father returned home from work as normal but almost straightaway he left again in the car, which had never happened before. Five minutes later I heard what I thought was a thunderclap. It was incredibly loud. My granny came into my room and said she was going to close all the shutters because a storm was coming.

At exactly the same moment all the lights went out and I heard a sound, impossible to describe properly. The closest thing I've ever heard to it is the sound of metal shop shutters rolling down, crashing shut, but this was a million, a billion times louder.

"I felt my bed collapsing, as if there was a hole opening up beneath me and an irresistible force dragging me out. I couldn't do anything. I had no idea what was happening". ■

Longarone is not in Friuli but the dam site is in the Municipality of "Erto e Casso" (PN).

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SOT LA NAPÈ

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Longarone before and after the "Tsunami" of 1963

EDITORIAL

In this edition we welcome the new Editor, Lisa Portolan. Lisa comes with much anticipated qualifications and attributes which reflect the newer generations of Friulians of whom she is one.

Friuli is different. It is part of Italy, but unlike any other region in the world. It is not I who says it but an English Professor of the University of Wales. He declares it as part of his introduction to a volume of photographs on Assisi. The photographer is Elio Ciol, from Casarsa della Delizia and the Professor is Alistair Crawford. Ciol is well known worldwide for his photographs and, as usual among us Friulians, unknown to many of us. Here is then an article about **ELIO CIOL – THE POET OF PHOTOGRAPHY**.

‘Hasta la vista, amigo’, is the identity call of any Mexican and of the most Mexican of all Mexicans, Schwarzenegger of course, who happens to be also the archetype of the Teutonic Race. How did he do that with a single ‘hello’? And we Friulians can’t do it with a much more imposing bundle of di Mandi, Ce mût?, Cjargnia, Udin, O bella ciao, Sabbiadoro, Pasolini, Jacuzzi del bagno, baccalà, la città di Cesare, Pilot Air and Terrazzo in Australia, the Transiberian railway (add your own list here.....) Why then, do we manage to remain unknown or, better, in hiding. Because we consider not flaunting ourselves a virtue, and hiding our Friulian heritage to be our first sign of respectability. **Read Danile Vidoni’s article.**

And where are the young Friulians? Here is one. Born and raised in Friuli. Of Italian and overseas parents, 16 years old and still at school, with views about Friuli which grate our ears and with a name like **Sami Wood**, it will surely hit us.

Here is also a slightly older group of young Friulians, with their brand of tribute to what they inherited from the Fogolar Furlan and their families, quite correctly translated into the Australian mode. **Article by Daniela Castronini.**

There are also a number articles, recipes, memories, photos to make us dream also critical correspondence because this is a magazine for all Friulians living in Friuli or of recent or old emigration, for those who remember it with affection or they are re-discovering it.

From me, leaving my post of Editor, my thanks to my collaborators of the Editorial group, who cannot be faulted for their attachment to Friuli, their dedication to Sot la Nàpe and their frankness. My thanks also to you, the readers and contributors for your support, understanding and indulgence of the shortcomings of the magazine and your assistance in bringing it to base camp from which my successor and her team will take it to higher peaks. ■

Mandi.

*Questa edizione da’ il benvenuto alla nuova Editore, **Lisa Portolan**. E’ una presenza da tempo desiderata, con qualifiche e attributi lusinghieri e che riflettono le nuove generazioni di cui lei fa parte.*

*Il Friuli è differente. È in Italia, ma come nessuna altra regione. Di Friuli ce ne è uno solo. Non sono io a dirvelo. Lo ha detto un professore inglese dell’università del Galles. Lo ha dichiarato nell’introduzione al volume di fotografie di Assisi, più bello di ogni altro. Il fotografo è Elio Ciol, Friulano di Casarsa della Delizia, e lo scrittore inglese si chiama Alistair Crawford. Ciol è famoso in tutto il mondo per le sue fotografie e, come il solito tra noi Friulani, sconosciuto da noi. Ecco allora un articolo su **ELIO CIOL – IL POETA DELLA FOTOGRAFIA**.*

*Hasta la vista, amigo, è la carta d’identità di ogni messicano e del più messicano di tutti i messicani, Schwarzenegger naturalmente, che capita essere anche l’archetipo della razza teutonica. Come ci è riuscito a farlo con un solo saluto di tre parole? E noi Friulani con un fardello più imponente di Mandi, Ce mut?, Cjargnia, Udin, O bella ciao, Sabbiadoro, Pasolini, Jacuzzi del bagno, baccalà, la città di Cesare, Terrazzo e Pilot Air in Australia, la Transiberiana in Russia (aggingete qui la vostra Ista....). Insomma, rimaniamo sempre i grandi sconosciuti o meglio, i grandi nascosti. Perché noi consideriamo un pregio non farci vedere, e nascondere la nostra provenienza friulana, crediamo sia il nostro primo atto di rispettabilità. **Leggete Danile Vidoni.***

*E i giovani, dove sono? Eccone uno. Nato e cresciuto nel Friuli, da genitori Italiani e d’oltremare, sedicenne ancora a scuola, con vedute sul Friuli che ci sembreranno stonate e con un nome come **Sami Wood**, ci metterà veramente sull’attenti.*

*Ed i giovani, anche se di età più matura, si fanno vivi anche in Australia con i loro apprezzamenti di ciò che riconoscono di aver ereditato dal Fogolar Furlan e dalla famiglia. La loro friulanità è giustamente tradotta alla australiana. Ecco l’articolo di **Daniela Castronini**.*

E poi altri articoli, ricette, ricordi, foto da bearsi e lettere anche di critica perché questa è una rivista per tutti i Friulani viventi in Friuli, di recente o vecchia emigrazione, per coloro che ricordano La Piccola Patria con nostalgia o la stanno riscoprendo.

Da me, John Colussi, editore uscente di Sot la Nape, un ringraziamento ai miei collaboratori editoriali il cui attaccamento al Friuli è oltre il sospetto, la loro dedizione a questa rivista e la loro schiettezza, a voi, i nostri lettori e contribuenti per il vostro sostegno, comprensione per i vostri contributi, la vostra gentile indulgenza per le sue ovvie deficienze e la vostra assistenza nel portarla a questa rivista al campo base da cui la mia successore, con il suo equipe, potrà portarla a mete più alte. Mandi a tutti. ■

WE welcome ...
LISA PORTOLAN,
THE NEW GENERATION
...to the editorial group of Sot la Nape.

Vital Stats: born in Australia of Friulian parents, mother from Gonârs and father from Cervignano. Lisa has lived in Canberra and now lives in Sydney where she did her primary and secondary schooling. Graduate of the University of Technology, Sydney, with degrees in Communications and International studies, she also conducted an exchange at Bologna University while undertaking her Undergraduate International Studies degree. Currently she is completing her PHD at the University of Western Sydney on digital intimacy.

Work experience: journalist published by Huff Post, SMH, The Conversation, The Guardian and others. Lisa Worked in publicity, advertising, publishing, TV and other media.

Output: numerous articles, writer of several books, two currently available on the best sellers list, and a third one due to be released in August 2021. Writing and selling ideas, a much needed infusion of youthful enthusiasm, a restless desire to reach out to her contemporaries and an enticing curiosity about her Friulian heritage.

To us, of the old guard, Lisa brings a most welcome hope that, the Friulian past we have lived, is finally taken up by the newer generations to carry forward the work which was the original purpose for the starting of Sot La Nape.■

Angelo Donati
President Fogolar Furlan NSW

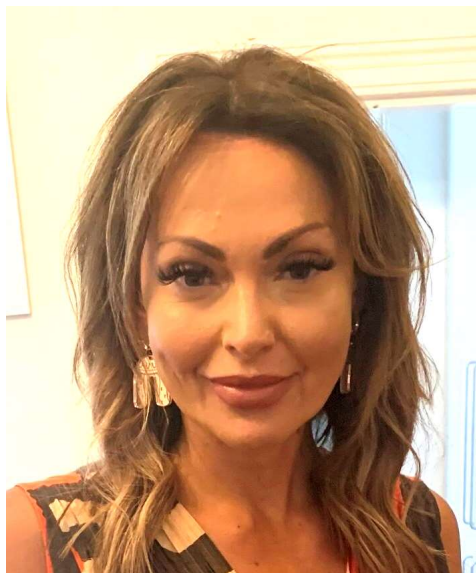
26th February 2021

Dear readers, friends of Sot La Nápe,

After many years of arduous work and dedication, our illustrious friend and tireless editor of SLN, Mr John Colussi, has elected to finally put his pen to rest and call it quits, leaving this task to the next generation. This will be that last edition of SLN that John Colussi will be overseeing. Over the years, John has been a respected mentor to many. He has been a rich source of knowledge for some of us who hardly if ever lived in Friuli. Through John we have grown to love and respect the Friuli region, its history, culture, traditions, language and people. He always maintained that the last link to a chain is the most important one. That last link must be actively nurtured and fostered by us if we are to ensure that the chain continues to grow. And who represents the last link you may ask? John says that this all-important link is represented by our grandchildren and through them and because of their natural curiosity to learn, we can cultivate and maintain our cultural heritage into the future.

On behalf of all the Fogolârs Furlans of Australia Association, together with the Ente Friuli Nel Mondo, I would like to sincerely thank Mr Colussi for all the enthusiasm and commitment that he has always shown to Friuli through his "infectious friulanità". We wish John along and happy retirement, Mandi,■

Federico Martin; Referente Fogolars Furlans of Australia Association Ente Friuli Nel Mondo



Diamo il benvenuto a...

LISA PORTOLAN,
LA NUOVA GENERAZIONE
...nel gruppo editoriale del Sot la Nape.

Statistiche vitali: nata in Australia da genitori friulani, mamma di Gonârs e padre di Cervignano. Lisa ha vissuto a Canberra ed ora abita a Sydney dove ha fatto le scuole elementari e le secondarie.

Ha frequentato l'University of Technology, Sydney, ottenendo lauree in Communication e International Studies ed ha intrapreso uno scambio all'Università di Bologna mentre studiava da undergraduate. Attualmente sta completando un Dottorato alla University of Western Sydney sul tema della Intimità Digitale.
Esperienza di lavoro: giornalista pubblicata nel HuffPost, SMH, The Conversation, The Guardian ed altri. Lisa ha lavorato in pubblicità, scritto libri, due al presente nella lista dei Best Sellers ed un terzo in preparazione per il lancio ad Agosto del '21.
Il suo importo a SLN: Lisa arriva con una vasta gamma di esperienza lavorativa nel campo della pubblicità, nello scrivere e lo smercio di idee, una tanto necessaria infusione di entusiasmo giovanile, un assillo di raggiungere i suoi coetanei ed una curiosità incalzante circa il suo retaggio friulano.

Per noi della vecchia guardia, Lisa apporta una speranza da tanto desiderata che il nostro passato che noi abbiamo vissuto venga finalmente raccolto dalle nuove generazioni per portare avanti quell'impegno che era la ragione d'essere e di dare vita a questa rivista. ■

LISA PORTOLAN "HAPPY AS..."

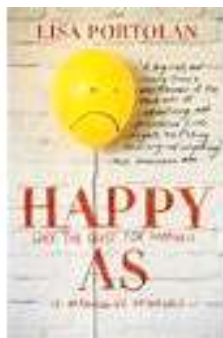
Review by John Colussi

I'll start at the end. You will be glad you read this book.

It takes you from Thomas Jefferson's '... pursuit of happiness', a hopeless quest even as a human right, to Abraham Maslow's alluring trajectory of the five steps to self actualisation, to all the gurus and happy charlatans, church merchants of spiritual healers, religious nuts well or ill-intentioned, each one of them selling their own brand of chimera, at a price, the snake oil of the elixir of love.

Lisa's own area of expertise, one of many, marketing, does not escape the sharp edge of her scalpel. Lisa should know. She did it for 10 years.

Start at chapter one, as we all do. You will want to go onto chapter two and you will feel the urge to read chapter three and then four and five, and so on, without skipping any of them because you don't want to miss the build up to the expectation of finding the answer in chapter 22, the last one.



Lisa's style is bright and breezy, very readable, tossed around enough to match everybody's experience of expressing oneself incoherently in our own words.

Lisa is frank and irreverent, impatient to transmit the wisdom of what she learnt in the world of make-believe, plastic smiles to fit the product on sale, of thick veneers of happiness to distract people from the facts, reality and the truth.

Happy as... is not the usual syrupy book on instant happiness a la Barbara Garland. It is extensively researched, clearly internalised and produced as a personal reflection rather than a piece of scholarly production. One senses that Lisa is present in every line, every punch-line, every quotable quote, every step forward in the analysis of happiness, from chapter to chapter.

I think the book is screaming for a sequel. Hopefully, it will come out of the current research Lisa is doing at the University of Western Sydney on digital intimacy. But this book sweeps away the dusty webs that have accumulated after nearly a century of make-believe, of TV, Google, Face-book, tick-tock, Instagram, Twitter and other devilries aimed at hiding us from ourselves.

As I said, you will be glad you read this book, you will feel you needed to read it but, in the end, it will make you think and, maybe, leave you, as probably intended by Lisa, wondering whether you are HAPPY AS... or UNHAPPY AS... ■

COMMENTO A SAMI DALL'EDITORE. (article at page 14)

Questo articolo di Sami fara' venire i brividi ad alcuni friulani di vecchio stampo. "Tutto negativo", diranno. "Dov'e' la sua cultura friulana?"

"Proprio come dico io da tempo" diranno altri' "La nostra cultura e' sparita in Australia come nel Friuli", come Sami.

Pero' se questo e' vero bisogna chiedersi dove e' nato e dove a vissuto Sami sui suoi sedici anni? E dove ha imparato a vivere? Dove ha imparato a comportarsi, pensare, a valutare le cose?

ma lui si vanta delle sue idee ed, allo stesso tempo si presenta come persona che pensa le cose e che non ha paura di distaccarsi anche dai suoi coetanei se non giudica il loro comportamento all'altezza dei suoi ideali?

E se gli mettessimo davanti quelle due parole che assillano noi tanto 'la cultura friulana', come si definirebbe lui? A sedici anni forse non saprebbe darci una risposta. Allora, mettiamolo sul chivala' e chiediamogli se e' d'accordo con la seguente descrizione della sua maniera di pensare, comportarsi e fare:

L'amore e rispetto verso la famiglia, dai nonni in giu', come il ceppo principale della cultura friulana. E se gli chiedessimo da dove ha imparato ad essere onesto, schietto e sincero, a non mettersi in vista troppo, a tenersi un poco in disparte, a quel senso di assoluta devozione al dovere, al momento definito dai suoi impegni scolastici, di non portare vergogna alla famiglia, di comportarsi in pubblico con dignita', di trattare le donne con rispetto, di tirare su le maniche quando c'e' da fare, di ripagare i debiti, di mantenere le promesse fatte anche se a proprio svantaggio, dall'apprezzamento del bello, dell'artistico, di quello che non e' solo utile, ma attraente all'occhio, di quel favore che si fa ad un amico o ad un estraneo per atto di compassione e senza pubblicizzarlo... Tutta roba nostra?

Tutta tradizione in cui noi siamo cresciuti ed educati, che abbiamo assorbito senza saperlo e che ora, sempre senza saperlo, noi speriamo di tramandarlo ai nostri figli e nipoti e che loro assorbiscano nella stessa maniera senza saperlo.

Infatti queste sono le categorie, gli elementi che abbiamo nella nostra testa quando usiamo la frase 'cultura friulana'

Sami ci dira' che lui ci crede a questo e cerca di praticarle. E da dove le ha apprese? Dai suoi naturalmente e specialmente dal nonno di cui ha un profondo amore e rispetto e con cui si misura sempre mentre sta crescendo di corpo e di mente. E, per sua fortuna, i suoi nonni vengono da famiglie che sono friulane da secoli. E se loro non sono lo scrigno della cultura friulana, dove la troveremo? Domanda retorica, vero?

ma gia' che Sami e' friulano, e friulano genuino che si e' anche confrontato con altre culture ed e' rimasto solido, 100 per cento entro la cultura friulana. ■

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ELIO CIOL

THE POET OF PHOTOGRAPHY

By John Colussi



Elio Ciol, Friulian, born in Casarsa della Delizia, Friuli, Italy and like all prophets, better known and extolled abroad than amongst us Friulians.

In his nineties, he still lives in Casarsa della Delizia, a humble and profound person. A childhood friend of another great

prophet, resident also of Casarsa della Delizia, although born in Bologna, Pierpaolo Pasolini. He too, a prophet, ignored for many years in his own country, achieves recognition at home for the excellence of his art only after achieving international fame. Two great Friulians, mutually respected, friends and collaborators in their art of the film: Pasolini in the art of the screen and Ciol in the art of photography. Two personalities at opposite ends of the spectrum but united in art. Pasolini, earnest non believer but restless in search of reality and Ciol fervent believer in search of the sources of spirituality, and both seeking reality through images.

Perhaps the best event that captured this happy contradiction was when both of them, seeking to deepen their art, met by chance at Assisi: Pasolini to seek inspiration for his masterpiece 'Gospel According to Matthew', in my estimation the best film on the life of Jesus Christ, later filmed in Spain with his mother playing the part of Mary, and Ciol to capture the depth of meaning of the Gospels through the architecture and the setting of Assisi, seen through his eyes projected through the lenses of his camera. His photographs found profound expression in a magnificent publication titled simply. 'ELIO CIOL - ASSISI'. Both of them, like true artists, struck by the simplicity and by the Christian humanity of that Francis who has become the symbol of all that is good and sufficient for life in this world.

IL POETA DELLA FOTOGRAFIA

Elio Ciol, Friulano, nato a Casarsa della Delizia, e, come tutti i profeti, più conosciuto ed inneggiato all'estero che tra noi Friulani.

Novantenne, vive ancora a Casarsa della Delizia, persona umile ma profonda. Amico di infanzia di un altro grande profeta, pure residente di Casarsa, anche se nativo di Bologna, Pierpaolo Pasolini. Anche lui, profeta, per molti anni ignorato 'in patria sua', viene apprezzato, per l'eccellenza della sua arte solo dopo aver raggiunto fama internazionale. Due grandi Friulani, amici con mutuo rispetto ed anche collaboratori nella loro arte della pellicola: Pasolini dello schermo ed Elio della fotografia. Due personaggi a poli opposti ma uniti nell'arte: Pasolini fervente noncredente ma restio, in cerca della verità, e Ciol credente fervente in cerca delle fonti della spiritualità, ed ambedue in cerca della realtà attraverso l'immagine.

Il momento forse più illustrativo di questa felice contraddizione è stato quando, tutti e due in cerca di approfondire la propria arte, si sono incontrati, senza preavviso, ad Assisi: Pasolini che cercava ispirazione per filmare il suo capolavoro 'Vangelo Secondo Matteo', a mio avviso il miglior film sulla vita di Gesù Cristo, girato poi in Spagna con sua mamma che faceva la parte della Madonna, e Ciol per captare il senso profondo del Vangelo, attraverso l'architettura e l'ambiente assisiani, visti attraverso i suoi occhi proiettati attraverso le lenti fotografiche. Le sue foto hanno trovato profonda espressività in una bellissima edizione, semplicemente titolata, 'ELIO CIOL - ASSISI'. Tutti e due, da veri artisti, abbagliati dalla semplicità e profondità umana e cristiana di quel Francesco che è diventato il simbolo di tutto ciò che è buono e sufficiente in questo mondo.



Chiesetta votiva, Remanzacco, 1961.

Elio learnt the basics of his art in Casarsa della Delizia and Friuli, a fact given evidence by Alistair Crawford (*) in his introduction to ELIO CIOL - ASSISI.



ELIO CIOL - ASSISI; Basilica nella nebbia, 1957

In fact, Elio had already published the book "ELIO CIOL - FRIULI-VENEZIA GIULIA-UN PICCOLO UNIVERSO". I am happy to quote a paragraph:

"The landscape of Friuli-Venezia Giulia is geographically and culturally characteristic especially given its difference in contrast with the other regions. In many aspects it is closer to Austria in the North, Yugoslavia to the east than to, for example, the imperial history of Venice to the South. Friuli shares little with the Mediterranean cultures. Its origins are certainly older than Italy's.

Both publications, and others, would be an attractive display in any lounge-room of a family loving of photography and inviting to meditation. For us Friulians, they are a source of satisfaction and pride.

This article is only an introduction to Elio Ciol and is certainly not intended as an adequate presentation of the merits of this great poet of the photography of ours. I had the good fortune, as a child, to know these two giants of Friuli. I used to see Pierpaolo at his mother Susanna's ice-cream parlour and Elio was our family photographer. He used to live across the road from us and came to take our yearly family photos as well as on other occasions.

Look him up on the computer and in his publications. His photographs will be an attractive display on the coffee-table of any lounge-room and a source of conversation and curiosity.

Cont page 8



Elio Ciol;
Fatiche giornaliere. Pieve di Cadore

Elio si è fatto le ossa di fotografo a Casarsa della Delizia e nel Friuli, un fatto rilevato da Alistair Crawford () nella sua introduzione al volume Friuli Venezia Giulia-Un Piccolo Universo.*

Ne cito con piacere un paragrafo:

"Il paesaggio del Friuli Venezia Giulia è geograficamente e culturalmente caratteristico, soprattutto per la sua diversità rispetto alle altre regioni italiane. Per molti aspetti è più vicino all'Austria a nord, alla Slovenia ad est che non, ad esempio, alla storia imperiale di Venezia a sud. Il Friuli ha poco da spartire con la civiltà del Mediterraneo. Ha certamente origini più antiche dell'Italia".

Infatti, Elio aveva già pubblicato un volume 'ELIO CIOL - FRIULI-VENEZIA GIULIA - UN PICCOLO UNIVERSO'. Tutti e due i volumi ed altre pubblicazioni di Elio fanno lusinghiera figura in ogni salotto di casa amante di quella fotografia che invita alla contemplazione. Per i Friulani i due volumi sono fonte di piacere e di orgoglio.

Questa mia presentazione è solo introduttiva e certamente non diretta ad esporre i meriti di questo grande poeta nostrano della fotografia.

Io ho avuto la fortuna, da ragazzino, di conoscere questi due giganti friulani. Pasolini lo vedevo nella gelateria di sua mamma Susanna ed Elio era il nostro fotografo di famiglia. Viveva dall'altra parte della strada, di fronte a noi. Ogni anno veniva a farci la foto di famiglia o di ricorrenza.

Vi invito a cercarlo sull'internet e nelle sue pubblicazioni. I suoi volumi faranno bella figura sul tavolino del caffè e saranno fonti di curiosità e conversazione.

Cont Page 8

Here are two artist, a believer and an non-believer, restless, in search of answers to the same nagging questions, seek out the most uncomplicated man in human history of 8 centuries earlier who, in turn, refers them to the man/God of another 12 centuries earlier and then they produce two masterpieces, for today's world, a film and a book of photographs: Pierpaolo, Elio, Francis, Jesus Christ. **This is** history and culture.

Who would dare say that the facts and records of history do not have a repercussion, a meaning for the present? Only an individual in the straightjacket of the modern mass media can remain in intellectual darkness, blind to reality and deaf to life.

Dante, a century after Francis, put it in the mouth of a pagan, Ulysses:

"Consider your origins.

You were not meant to live like brutes,
but to pursue honour and knowledge".



Elio Ciol in "Posa a Firenze"

Recognition: World Press Photo Award for Nature.

Expositions: in numerous cities and countries, like New York, Moscow, Japan and others.

Publications: numerous of his photographic work.

Look him up on multiple www. articles.

FOOT NOTES:

(*) Alistair Crawford, professor of photography at the Department of visual arts of the Welsh University, UK.■



"Il Tagliamento a San Giorgio -1956"

Ecco due artisti irrequieti, uno credente ed uno non credente, in cerca di risposte agli stessi assilli, si vologono all'umo più sempilce della storia umana di otto secoli prima il quale, a sua volta, indica l'uomo/ Dio di ancora dodici secoli prima e poi producono due capolavori di arte per il mondo di oggi, un film ed un volume di tofotografie: Pierpaolo, Elio, Francesco e Gesù Cristo. Questa è storia e cultura.

Chi osa dire che fatti e le testimonianze della storia non hanno una ripercussione, un valore per il presente? Solo una persona imbaccucata sotto i teloni impermeabili dei mass media moderni rimane allo scuro intellettuale, cieco alla realtà storica e sordo alla vita.

Lo ha detto anche Dante, un secolo dopo Francesco, mettendolo nella bocca di un pagano, Ulisse:

"Considerate la vostra semenza.

*Fatti non foste a viver come bruti,
ma per seguir virtute e conoscenza."*

Riconoscimento: World Press Photo Award for Nature

Mostre: in moteplici città e nazioni, tra cui, Nuova York, Mosca, Giappone.

Pubblicazioni: numerose pubblicazioni del suo lavoro di fotografo.

Cercatelo sull'internet su numerosi www siti.

FOOT NOTES:

(*) Alistair Crawford, professor of photography at the Department of visual arts of the Welsh University, UK.■

FRIULI IN THE KITCHEN: FRITTATA AL FORNO

Vegetable Bake

INGREDIENTS

200g of red peppers, cleaned of the seeds and stringy parts.
1 large potato peeled and sliced.
150g of mushrooms sliced not too thin.
100g of ham (preferably smoked) cut into small cubes.
3 shallots cut into small sections.
Parsley finely chopped.
4 or 5 eggs
One tablespoons of milk for each egg used.
One tablespoon of grated parmesan cheese for each egg used.
Quantity of bread crumbs.
Salt and pepper.
One large zucchini or squash sufficiently long for the slices to cover the bottom and the sides of the baking dish. Alternatively size the dish to suit the size of the zucchini.

Did you ever forget for a couple of days to collect the zucchini or squash from your fertile veggie patch? We all have occasionally and we were confronted with a monster zucchini and not too sure of what to do with it. No fear, here's the solution; nonna Azelia's old recipe passed on by her mother based on the wise old principal "never waist any food, it's a sin". If you didn't forget to pick, use regular size zucchini.

METHOD

Slice longwise the zucchini with a potato peeler or a mandolin slicer. Lay the slices on a tea towel for the moisture to be absorbed. Sprinkle lightly with salt. On medium heat, fry the potato slices in oil until they start to soften, lay them out on paper towel for the oil to be absorbed.
Fry the pepperoni pieces until they start to change colour taking care not to overcook them. Lightly fry the mushrooms for a few minutes. Brush or spray with oil the inside of the dish and cover the bottom and sides with some of the zucchini slices overlapping them so as to cover the whole inside surface of the dish.
Spread the potato slices to form an even layer, sprinkle lightly with salt and pepper.
Spread evenly the pepperoni, the ham, the shallots and the parsley. Sprinkle some of the parmesan.
Beat the eggs with the milk and the remaining parmesan, add a pinch of salt and pepper. Pour the mixture in the dish.
Cover the lot with the rest of the zucchini slices again overlapping them to form an even layer.
Sprinkle with more parmesan and the bread crumbs.
Bake in oven at medium temperature for 30-40 minutes.

METHOD

1. Fill a stock pot about 3/4 full with water and add the lemon halves, black peppercorns, bay leaves, red pepper flakes, garlic cloves and 2 tablespoons of kosher salt. Bring up to a boil.
2. Meanwhile, rinse the octopus well under cool water. Remove the head and any entrails.
3. When the water is boiling, add the octopus. Turn down the heat and let it simmer covered for 2 hours
4. Start your polenta about 30-45 minutes before serving. Fill a separate pot with the chicken broth and follow the brand instructions for cooking. When the polenta is done cooking, add the butter and cheese. Add salt and pepper to taste. Fold in fresh grated lemon zest and parsley. Stir to incorporate.
5. Octopus should be finished braising while the polenta is cooking. Cut tentacles off to make grilling easier and grill the pieces until you have some nice char marks and color on each side. Salt to taste.
6. When both the polenta and octopus are finished, pour polenta onto a plate or in a bowl and put pieces of octopus in the center.
7. This dish pairs well with a light-bodied, lemony white wine such as Falanghina.

Grilled octopus with creamy polenta

Ingredients:

- Octopus (about 1/2 kg per person)
 - 1 cup polenta
 - 4 cups chicken broth
 - 1/2 cup grated Parmigiano-Reggiano
 - 3 tablespoons unsalted butter
 - 1 lemon cut in half + 1 lemon for zesting
 - 1 tablespoon red pepper flakes
 - 2 bay leaves
 - 1 tablespoon whole black peppercorns
 - 2 smashed garlic cloves
 - 1 bunch fresh parsley, chopped
- Kosher salt and fresh ground black pepper to taste

Lost among the Clouds

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"Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail."
Ralph Waldo Emerson



Words to Remember

I sometimes find, as my beard grows ever greyer, that words don't come as easily as they once did. They evade, dodge and hide away, teasing; forcing me to seek them out, as a hound seeks unquenchable scents, but try as I may they resist all attempts at revelation.



The secret then is not to search, but to leave a trail, and let them find me in their own good time. As it is often the case that in order to possess certain things one must first let them go; in order to appreciate one must lose something of value; in order to remember one must forget.

Wind and Water



Sharp mountain peaks frowned down disapprovingly at me as my brother, cousins and I wound our way along a steeply inclined serpentine ribbon of black. It was a long and nauseating

journey which climbed relentlessly skywards topping out at 4,500 feet or better 1,400metres. We were traversing the famous Passo di Monte Croce on a pilgrimage to the adorable town of Mauthen. On one side is Italy and Friuli, and on the other Austria .

Just short of the border we stopped and alighted from the vehicle close to a huge wind turbine. The five year old in me regarded the giant fan framed by the woods and brittle stone slopes and briefly thought "so this is where the World's wind comes from!"

Up here the air was cool but the sun was hot and burned. We walked in circles and I shook off my inverted stomach which was of the firm opinion that sea level is best, and venturing anywhere higher than a Norfolk Pine can only be described an act of loonacy. Regardless, I was bent on marching onwards and completing my incursion into Austria.

I sipped some water and got comfortable sitting on a nearby boulder; as comfortable as a slab of granite can be, and my thoughts went northwards. Look, over there, just a few hundred meters away is the Republic of Austria; it's more than the name suggests.

Phrenological Considerations

Before I respond to my own question, let me ask another, perhaps more annoying question. Are you able to tell a Friulano by just looking at one? Ensconed in stone and ice like monks for many generations, is it not a reasonable notion that a Friulano gene may have emerged and asserted itself over the ages?

Hawk like eyes and teeth of diamond; stern and furrowed brows, perplexing and unknowable; anvil like fists shatter ice with a single blow and tree like legs to ponder about the woods with! Not men but Gods hewn from the very mountains they inhabit and just as unyielding. Stirred to rise each day by the soft light of the Sun, they tower over all. Unbreakable giants from the frigid Northlands. Brrr.

I grab my shaving mirror and look for myself. Symmetry is good and smooth skin, big ears, better to hear you with. Thin lips evade frostbite and weird coloured eyes, who knows what that's about, and that untameable mind! There is also the start of a three day growth; I rub my scratchy face and find I'm unable to effectively convince myself that there is such a thing as a unique Friulano 'look'. It's bunk, but my ego won't be letting go of the notion that I'm descended from ice giants anytime soon, it's just too awesome.

South of the Border

It's more than geography and more than just the birthplace of people such as Hedy Lamarr and Arnold Schwarzenegger. There is more to it than The Sound of Music. Austria is an idea. Wrapped in this idea is culture and language and many other ideas as well. Weirdly, thinks I, on THIS side of the border there is a totally different idea. The idea of Friuli. Ancient civilisation, frico and pasta and much more.



How then are people South of the border different? Specifically, what makes Friulani distinctive? Austria has Edelweiss, England has tea and cricket, what does Friuli have and am I REALLY one of them? This will require some thought...

Patience of Saints

Thus far, Friulani women have remained conspicuously unmentioned. Considering that without them there would be no ice giants nor anything else Friulano, this is a grave oversight. Friuli would also be a joyless place with frico served every night for dinner. Lunch and breakfast would also consist of frico but slightly less of it. There would obviously be no baby ice giants, chaos and madness would reign supreme, community would disintegrate and without their judicious naggings, the grass would overgrow everything.

Friuli would be very, very boring and without the patient kindness of the Friulane, the ice giants would be angry all of the time, capering around the joint like ogres. Why? Because Friuli men need and love their families more than anything in the world. They live to serve them and ask for nothing except some respect in exchange. Family gives the Friulano purpose and meaning and is not a chore but a duty; the only thing worth dying for; certainly worth living for.

Friulani women know perfectly well that their men can be oafish, stubborn, obnoxious jerks who are a long way from being perfect, but they don't care; if that isn't true love I don't know what is, and together these enigmatic folk forge not only an unbreakable bond, but also a discrete unit of society without which there can be no enduring culture or civilisation.

Lost among the Clouds

I posed a question some ways back, but have yet to provide a complete answer. What is a Friulano and am I one of them? The answer is a Friulano is anyone raised within the Friulano culture, imbued with its values, strengths and foibles, independent of their birthplace.

Yes of course I'm one of them. I became one the moment my exhausted young Mum and Dad saw my face and held me for the first time, and every day after as I grew, played, fell, got up, fell, got up, learned, strengthened and eventually made my way back to the lands of my ancestors.

Then, there, in that place, thousands of feet above sea level, high in the Carnic Alps, beyond the squirrel-filled trees, where there be stillness and mild unfolding breezes lost among the clouds, I finally remembered something important... I was home.■

End.

'VIGI' SOLARI TURNED 80.

Luigi arrived in Australia in 1957 with his mother Anita and brothers Eligio and Giuseppe. They joined father-husband Tullio and older brother Leonardo who had migrated in 1951 and settled in Cooma working on the Snowy Mountains Project.

Luigi was born at Pesariis in the 'Valle del Tampo' on the 1st of February 1941 and has been living in Sydney from 1967.

On the 31st of January, he celebrated his milestone with family, many relatives and friends at the "Il Sapore" Restaurant in Gregory Hills, organised by his

daughters Jennifer and Erika.



Top; Vigi with family and relatives.

Left; with three mates and brother Eligio.

Right; with wife Denise, brother Eligio, sister in law Franca and friends.



MESSAGE FROM STEFANO MAZZOLINI, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE AUTONOMOUS REGION FRIULI VENEZIA GIULIA .



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c.a. Fogolar Furlan

Trieste 16/02/21

Spett.le Fogolar Furlan,
in qualità di vicepresidente del Consiglio della Regione Autonoma Friuli Venezia Giulia vi scrivo questa mail per portare a voi i saluti di tutta l'amministrazione regionale, con l'augurio e l'auspicio di un 2021 decisamente migliore dell'anno appena trascorso.
Il 2020 ha portato con sé non poche difficoltà e preoccupazioni sia nell'ambito della salute, sia in quello del lavoro.
La Regione Fvg si è dimostrata, tra quelle italiane, la più generosa con i suoi cittadini per far fronte all'emergenza Covid e alle difficoltà economiche legate all'emergenza sanitaria. Non è un periodo facile, ma noi ci siamo impegnando per essere al fianco dei cittadini per tutelare al meglio la loro salute e dare un concreto supporto economico a imprese e famiglie.
Non posso però esprimere eguale apprezzamento verso il nostro governo nazionale, che purtroppo ha perseguito scelte discutibili di gestione della pandemia penalizzando le aziende, i lavoratori e i nuclei familiari. Servivano scelte incisive e aiuti puntuali, ma non sono arrivati.

A voi, nostri alferi nel mondo e associazione che da sempre porta ovunque la nostra Piccola Patria, chiedo invece: com'è la situazione fuori dai confini regionali e italiani? Quali misure ha adottato lo Stato ove avete residenza, per far fronte a questa imprevista e particolare situazione? Sono interessato a comprendere le differenti azioni intraprese per capire ciò che ha funzionato e ciò che non ha funzionato. Vi sarei grato quindi se poteste fornirmi un riscontro a tale riguardo.

Mi auguro che questa comunità friulana rimanga unita e non venga meno lo spirito di aiuto e supporto verso chi ha bisogno che da sempre contraddistingue il nostro popolo. Ne sono certo, perché conosco le nostre radici, la nostra storia, la grandezza del nostro cuore.
Ora più che mai, abbiamo bisogno di aiuto reciproco, determinazione e coraggio. Sono certo che la nostra comunità possa dare l'esempio al resto del mondo.

In attesa delle vostre gentili risposte, vi invito a onorare sempre la nostra Patria, il Friuli Venezia Giulia, vi rivolgo un caloroso saluto e un abbraccio.

Il Vice Presidente
Consiglio Regionale FVG
Stefano Mazzolini



REGIONE AUTONOMA
FRIULI VENEZIA GIULIA
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C.a. Fogolar Furlan Trieste 16/02/21

Spett.le Fogolar Furlan,

In the capacity of Vice President of the Autonomous Region Friuli Venezia Giulia, I send you this mail to bring you greetings from all the Regional administration, with wishes and auspices for a 2021 decisively better than the one just passed.

2020 has brought with itself not few difficulties and preoccupations, be it in the ambit of health or that of work.

The Region FVG has demonstrated, amongst the Italian regions, to be the most generous with its citizens in coping with the Covid emergency and the economic difficulties tied to the sanitation emergency. It's not an easy period, but we are engaged to be side by side with the citizens to protect in the best way their health and provide concrete economic support to business and families.

However I can't express equal appreciation towards our National Government, that unfortunately has pursued arguable choices in managing the pandemia penalising firms, workers and families. Needed were decisive choices and timely help, but they did not arrive.

To you, our ambassadors in the world and the Association, that always carry everywhere our Little Patria, I ask: how is the situation outside of the Regional and Italian borders? What measures were adopted by the State where you reside, to confront this unforeseen and particular situation? I am interested in comprehending the different measures adopted so to understand what has worked and what has not. I would be grateful if you could send me a report in that regard.

I wish that your Friulian community remains united and for the spirit of support for those in need that always distinguished our people, not to diminish. I am sure, because I know our roots, our history, the greatness of our heart.

Now more than ever, we need mutual help, determination and courage. I am certain that our community can be of example for the rest of the world.

While awaiting your kind responses, I invite you to always honour our Homeland, Friuli Venezia Giulia, I convey to you a warm salute and embrace.■

The Vice President
Consiglio Regionale FVG
Stefano Mazzolini



Messaggio del nostro Referente Federico Martin in risposta.

Gentilissimo Vice Presidente Stefano Mazzolini Consiglio Regionale FVG

Auguriamo anche a lei un buon proseguimento per il 2021 che sicuramente dovrà essere migliore del 2020. A nome di tutti gli otto Fogolârs Furlans dell'Australia, di cui io sono referente per l'EFNM, rispondo alla sua lettera del 16 febbraio in cui ci invita a descrivere come noi in Australia stiamo vivendo l'esperienza del COVID-19.

Il continente australiano è in un certo qual modo fortunatissimo di essere in essenza una grande isola contenente poco più di 26 milioni di abitanti. In maggiorparte questi vivono sulle coste del sud e sud-est del continente dove il clima è normalmente più mite rispetto al Friuli. Le nostre maggiori città come Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide, Perth e Canberra, nonostante le loro elevate concentrazioni di abitanti, si trovano ad enormi distanze l'una dall'altra.

Il nostro sistema governativo è basato sul sistema "Westminster". Ci sono sei governi statali con i Premier, due governi territoriali con i Chief Ministers e il governo federale con a capo il Primo Ministro. Prima del COVID, in confronto ad altri paesi, l'economia australiana era abbastanza forte e stabile, capace di ammortizzare un colpo come il COVID-19, un colpo che, naturalmente, nessuno si aspettava.

I primi casi COVID-19 in Australia si sono sviluppati tra i passeggeri delle navi da crociera che arrivavano nei nostri porti. Non sapendo ancora dell'enorme contagiosità di questo morbo, la quarantena in atto a quel tempo era di solo sette giorni. Alcuni passeggeri, non avendo nessun sintomo di malattia, sbarcarono e rincararono senza nessun controllo, inconsapevolmente spargendo il COVID nelle loro rispettive comunità.

Quando il 'WHO' dichiarò il Coronavirus una pandemia, i governi statali e territoriali, assieme al governo federale australiano, misero immediatamente in atto un sistema di isolamento erigendo frontiere statali e territoriali che tutt'ora sono o possono essere messe in vigore in un batter d'occhio. Era sin dal 1918, durante la pandemia della febbre spagnola, che queste frontiere non venivano usate in Australia. La responsabilità di amministrare queste quarantene nei loro Stati e Territori fu lasciata ai Premiers e ai Chief Ministers in comunicazione con e coordinata dal governo federale.

Una serie di rigorosi lockdown furono imposti sulle comunità più a rischio. Una gran parte di gente dovette rimanere a casa per molte settimane di fila fino quando il rischio di contagio era ritenuto sotto controllo.

Questi lockdown vennero ripetuti più volte fino quando le autorità sanitarie erano soddisfatte che la pandemia era di nuovo sotto controllo. I lockdown sono decisioni basate su evidenze mediche/scientifiche e non politiche.

Il Governo Federale ha messo in atto due schemi di finanziamento accessibili a chiunque avesse perso il lavoro o per chi era stato sospeso dal lavoro.

Questi schemi sono il 'Job Seeker' ed il 'Job Keeper'scheme'. Il Job Seeker è per chi ha perso il lavoro a causa del COVID-19, mentre il sussidio dato per il Job Keeper viene distribuito ai datori di lavoro che poi passano il sussidio ai loro dipendenti che non potevano più lavorare durante la pandemia. Job Keeper è uno schema per aiutare le aziende a mantenere più persone nei loro posti di lavoro. Un altro schema per stimolare il settore dell'edilizia è il 'Home Builder Grant' dove una generosa concessione è offerta a chi vuole costruire una casa o rimodernarla. Per mantenere l'economia attiva i governi australiani hanno portato avanti e accelerato progetti di infrastrutture.

Ripeto, siamo isolati dal resto del mondo. Noi pensiamo che questo ha aiutato a mantenerla la pandemia in Australia sotto controllo. Siamo arrivati a questo punto con seria disciplina. Casi di contagio succedono ancora ma questi sono relativamente pochi e sono messi subito sotto controllo. Tutti i casi di contagio provengono da nuovi arrivati in Australia. Nelle maggiori città d'arrivo, il governo ha designato alberghi speciali che ospitano solamente i nuovi arrivati che, anche se non hanno sintomi, devono rimanere in quarantena per un periodo minimo di 14 giorni. Ad ogni caso di contagio ha imposto un regime di tests per accertare che la diffusione del virus sia identificata e contenuta.

Datosi il grande influsso di emigrati nel dopoguerra, le comunità friulane in Australia sono in maggior parte di età avanzata e per questo si trovano a rischio relativamente elevato. Ora, pazientemente, aspettiamo il vaccino che molto presto sarà distribuito. La priorità sarà data a quelli più a rischio nella nostra comunità. Non abbiamo una bacchetta magica ma abbiamo la fortuna di essere capitati in questo 'paradiso terrestre', chiamato Australia. Speriamo che non cambi.

Questo è un riassunto della nostra situazione. Spero le dia un'idea di come il nostro governo cerca di proteggerci dal Covid 19. Auguro a tutti i Friulani, ovunque essi si trovino, un mondo di bene, con la speranza che con la volontà di Dio questa pandemia sarà messa sotto controllo al più presto possibile così lasciandoci liberi di viaggiare e venire a rivedere i nostri bei paesi d'origine e la nostra cara patria.

Un mandi di cûr. ■

Federico Martin
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FRIULI THROUGH THE EYES OF A YOUNG FRIULANO by Sami Wood

Sami Wood, 16 years of age, Italian mother, English father of Yemeni origin. Born and bred in Friuli. 50% Friulian, 50% English/Yemeni and 100% Italian. How does he see his Friuli?



Unfortunately, I should begin with a bitter realisation. Today the consciousness of Friuli both from the cultural and the geographical points of view is vanishing. The young people of today are less and less interested in their origins and hence the issues relating to Friuli are almost never discussed. An example is the use of the Friulian language, now spoken by very few young people.

The knowledge of the regional cultures by people of my age is vague. Rarely are there conversations with older people about our traditions. Due to various reasons, the differences between modern Friuli and the past are many.

When I think of the older Friuli, the first thing that comes to my mind is the date 6th May 1976 (* the date of the earthquake). There was an economic boom of development after that disaster. Another event was the fall of Communism in 1989 which allowed us to trade with the neighbouring states with the opening of the borders.

Besides this, over the years, there have been great differences as a result of the opening towards other nations giving rise to multiculturalism which, in turn, causes the loss of the Friulian identity. Finally, it puts to rest the well known Friulian saying “di bessoi”, that is “on our own”.

In the light of the above, the differences, when compared to the other regions, are minimal and become evident only within a cultural setting because, from a socio-economic point of view, all regions have integrated.

Only Carnia, because of its relative isolation, still retains a little friulanità’.

Personally, I can speak of the differences that exists between us and the United Kingdom. There are many but difficult to specify.

Purtroppo devo cominciare con un’amara constatazione: Al giorno d’oggi la conoscenza del Friuli, sia dal punto di vista culturale che dal punto di vista geografico sta svanendo. I giovani d’oggi si disinteressano sempre di più delle loro radici, quindi le tematiche riguardanti la propria regione non sono quasi mai trattate. Un esempio di questo fenomeno può essere quello riguardante la lingua Friulana: pochissimi giovani la parlano! La conoscenza delle culture regionali da parte dei miei coetanei è vaga. Non ci sono quasi mai discussioni con persone più anziane che riguardano le nostre tradizioni. A causa di diversi fenomeni, le differenze tra il Friuli di oggi e quello del passato sono molte.

Quando si parla del vecchio Friuli viene subito in mente una data, che è il 6 maggio del 1976. Dopo questo terribile disastro, la regione ebbe un suo “boom economico” a seguito della ricostruzione. Un altro elemento determinante fu il crollo del comunismo nel ’89, che ci permise di avere contatti con i nostri stati confinanti a seguito della apertura delle frontiere.

Detto questo, le grandi differenze che ci sono state negli anni sono l’apertura verso gli altri, che sta causando un multiculturalismo, che a sua volta fa perdere la vera identità friulana. È stato anche finalmente messo da parte il famoso detto friulano “di bessoi”, ovvero da soli.

Alla luce di quanto detto le differenze con le altre regioni sono minime e si presentano solo in ambito culturale, perché dal punto di vista economico-sociale tutte le regioni italiane si sono integrate.

Solo la zona della Carnia, essendo piuttosto isolata mantiene ancora un po’ di “friulanità”.

Personalmente posso parlare delle differenze che ci sono tra noi e il Regno Unito, che sono moltissime e difficili da elencare. Ci sono diversità in quasi tutti gli ambiti della vita comune, dal rapportarsi con le persone al modo di vivere e trovo difficile comparare una piccolissima regione dell’Italia con un paese come il Regno Unito.

Uno dei luoghi dove mi frequento di più con i miei coetanei e dove ho appreso molte conoscenze è ovviamente la scuola. Faccio una premessa dicendo che i giovani di oggi, a parere mio, sono più indisciplinati rispetto a quelli di una volta, perciò il rispetto delle regole e degli insegnanti viene spesso violato.

Molti adolescenti tendono anche a non dare un valore alla scuola ed a disinteressarsi completamente di essa.

There are differences in almost all aspect of daily life, from the manner in which we relate to others, to life style, a comparison I find difficult to make between a rather small region of Italy and the United Kingdom.

Of course, where I spend a lot of time and meet my friends is obviously the school. I preface my remarks by saying that, in my view, people of my age are less well-behaved than those of previous times. Observance of the rules and respect towards the teachers are often disregarded. Many teen-agers tend also not to give much importance to school and be totally disinterested in it. I should add also that only a few, even among those among my age group who take an interest in the school, show an interest in raising issues which may lead to its betterment.

Besides their lack of interest in their schooling, some of them are not interested in their own future. Even among those who are interested there are those who are unsure about their future and those who have clear views of it.

An issue that is discussed in school or among friends is politics. It is my experience the majority of young people tend to have a scant knowledge of the issue. The young people now tend to source their information from the internet and the social media. They are also the first to trust populists who exercise a great influence due to an uncritical usage of their internet (D Trump says...) It is due to the fact that very few of them read newspapers or books, which are more reliable.

Let us talk about politics. Everybody is unhappy with the political class. The people who govern our country and represent us at local or national level are unprepared both from a professional and a political stance. Even as I write, Italy is facing a political crisis. We are without a government and we are witnessing a shameful bartering between politician on behalf of their parties in an effort to form a majority and avoid an election which may result in a government of the Right.

The cause of the rise of the Right is due the issue of immigration. For years Italy is facing this huge problem of people coming mostly from North Africa, the Middle East and the Balkans. They seem to be of two types: the economic group and the refugees. You can tell immediately from their behaviour and dress or from their colour which makes it difficult for them to enter the community and consequently live among themselves. It is easier for their Italian-born children or young people to enter because they adopt more readily our customs, while the older ones have a greater difficulty to abandon their traditions. ■ Continued in the next edition.

Detto ciò, però voglio sottolineare che solo una piccola parte di miei coetanei che si interessa della scuola e che porta alla luce problematiche che possono portare ad un miglior funzionamento della stessa.

Oltre al disinteresse completo nell'ambito scolastico alcuni ragazzi non si preoccupano neanche del loro futuro. Per quanto riguarda le poche persone interessate vedo che si presentano due tipi di diverse situazioni, ovvero ci sono persone incerte su quello che vorranno fare da adulti oppure altre che hanno già le idee chiare.

Una tematica che a volte viene trattata a scuola o tra amici è quella della politica. Ho tristemente riscontrato che la maggior parte dei giovani e degli adolescenti tendono ad avere poca conoscenza in questo ambito. Le persone che conosco credono a gran parte delle informazioni che leggono su internet e sui social media. Questi sono anche i primi che si affidano a personaggi populistici che hanno una grande influenza grazie al loro uso spregiudicato di internet (Trump insegna...). Questo accade perché pochissimi leggono giornali o libri che sono fonti più attendibili.

Collegandoci sempre alla politica, tutti gli elettori sono scontenti del ceto attuale. Le persone che governano il nostro paese e ci rappresentano sia a livello locale, che a livello nazionale sono poco preparate, sia dal punto di vista culturale che politico. Mentre sto scrivendo questo testo in Italia abbiamo una crisi politica e siamo senza un governo e assistiamo ad una vergognosa compravendita di politici da parte dei partiti per cercare di formare una nuova maggioranza ed evitare le elezioni che porterebbero al governo partiti di destra.

Questa ascesa politica della destra è dovuta al fenomeno dell'immigrazione. Da un po' di anni in Italia si presenta questo enorme problema che vede persone principalmente provenienti dal Nord Africa, Medio Oriente e Balcani arrivare da noi. Questi immigrati si possono distinguere in due categorie: gli immigrati economici e i rifugiati. Queste persone facilmente riconoscibili dai loro modi di fare e di vestirsi oppure dal loro colore di pelle a volte fanno fatica ad inserirsi nella comunità e quindi restano tra di loro. È più facile che i loro figli nati in Italia o i giovani si inseriscano facilmente perché assimilano più velocemente i nostri costumi, mentre i più anziani faticano a rinunciare alle loro tradizioni. ■

Continua nella prossima edizione.



GLANCES OF HISTORICAL CHRONOLOGY

By Daniele Macuglia for the Ente Friuli nel Mondo. English translations by Lucio Rupil

20th of December 2016: THE BIG CHAIR OF MANZANO WAS DISMANTLED.



On the 20th of December 2016 the Big Chair of Manzano was dismantled, symbol of the Friulian Municipality renown worldwide as the “Chair Capital”.

It was around the start of the twentieth century that a group of cabinetmaker/woodworkers interested in the production of chairs started to organize themselves around Manzano (UD). So the “Triangle of the Chair” was born that included San Giovanni al Natisone (UD) and Corno di Rosazzo (UD). Over the years the triangle became a specialized industrial centre, in which women occupied important roles, especially in the skills of upholstery. We have to keep in mind that in the sixties, in Manzano around six million (yes 6,000,000) chairs were assembled annually!

These days the area is called more appropriately “The Chair District”, an industrial reality, vast and complex that includes eleven Friulian municipalities and covers an area of over 200 square kilometres.

The Big Chair of Manzano was originally installed at Udine in Piazza San Giacomo on the 7th of October 1995 and uncovered in occasion of the 19th edition of the “*Salone Internazionale della Sedia*” (International Chair Show), that was held at Torreano di Martignacco (UD) from the 6th to the 9th of October 1995. It was made in the “Marocca” style, a rustic chair with back and rear legs slightly curved. It was 20 meters high and weighed nearly 23 tonnes. The monument remained in Udine until the 6th of January 1996. It was then dismantled and reassembled in Manzano on the roundabout in Marussig Street. You see it on the photo we have selected for you. Notwithstanding some maintenance work carried out in 2006, it was necessary to dismantle the structure due to safety concerns. Talks began in 2019 on building another one.■

27th of November. THE FRIULIAN FLAG

The flag of Friuli was adopted by the Autonomous Region Friuli Venezia Giulia by the Regional Decree n. 27 of the 27 of November 2001. It is the representation of a golden predatory bird that dates back to the thirteenth century Patriarch Bertrand of Saint-Geniès. It imitates part of his mantle which his preserved in the Museum of Udine’s Cathedral. The history of the Region, in fact, is tied to that of the Patriarchal Duchy of Aquileia, a vassal state of the Sacred Roman Empire. It existed from 1077 to 1420, the year in which it was annexed to the Republic of Venice, and known from the 13th century as the “Patria del Friuli”. The bird of prey represented in the Cathedral’s Museum, about which much debate has taken place, has the wings unfolded, the head facing left to the viewer, the claws are red, with a blue-grey background. According to some it’s an eagle, to others a griffin. The current flag of Friuli is inspired by that image, but it represents an eagle with a red rostrum. It was thought of and designed by Marco de Agostini and Giorgio Jus by initiative of the Movimento Friuli. After various prototypes, realised in 1973, the flag in its final format was printed at Codroipo on the 24th of July 1974 by a artisan printer. The picture below shows the first flag printed of that series, now preserved by Marco de Agostini. Initially it included the word Friûl, due to the lack of awareness at popular level of the ties between the symbol and the Friulian territory. From 1980 the word has been omitted to discard all references to the “Movimento Friuli”.



Sources: Legge regionale FVG 27 Novembre 2001, n. 27; Gianfranco Ellero, *Patria del Friuli. Un lungo percorso identitario*, Udine 2009, *passim*; intervista a Marco De Agostini. Photo: Marco De Agostini. It depicts the flag and other memorabilia. The first samples of the flag bore the ensign “No 01 1964” with De Agostini’s signature. “1964” refers to the Movimento Friuli’s archival number.■

13th of November 1903 Birthday: VIRGINIA TONELLI, Friulian Partisan.



On the 13th of November 1903 at Castelnovo del Friuli, Virginia Tonelli was born, partisan and decorated with the Gold Medal of Military Valour. Having acquired the craft of seamstress at a young age, she worked casually at Castelnovo and Venice, also as a nurse. She left for France in 1934. Lived in Toulon

where she married the Paduan Pietro Zampollo, anti-fascist. Already before leaving Friuli she had been in contact with the communist movement in the Spilimbergo area and she was an active antifascist in France. Returned to Castelnovo in 1943, her activism caused her to be incarcerated at Pordenone. She operated mainly as a messenger in the communications between antifascist groups in the plains and the mountains, organizing also the propaganda and the clandestine meetings. Her code name was "Luisa" and readily she supported above all the Garibaldi Friuli brigade.

The Nazis arrested her on the 19th of September 1944 in Trieste and she was incarcerated in the Coroneo Prison. Determined not to talk, she was tortured and thrown (it's believed still alive) in a cremation oven in the San Sabba rice mill. The date of her death remains unknown. We remember her today with the words of Tito Maniaco, as they can be read on the epitaph on the monument located at Paludea di Castelnovo's Martyrs Liberty Square: (Translation)

"In memory of those that did not fold
and of Virginia Tonelli "Luisa"
who when the soil was under the
Nazi-Fascist foot,
in the shadows spoke, convinced, fought.
Captured, she transformed in silence
the people's hate
and silently died at the S.Sabba Rise Mill.
Oh, you, who pass for your peaceful work,
Remember to remember".

"In memoria di coloro che non piegarono e di Virginia Tonelli "Luisa", che quando la terra era sotto il piede nazista e fascista, oscura parlò, convinse, lottò.

Catturata, trasformò in silenzio l'odio del popolo e in silenzio morì alla Risiera di S.Sabba.

*Oh, tu, che passi per il tuo pacifico lavoro,
Ricordati di ricordare".■*

7 – 18 of February 1945 THE MASSACRE OF PORZÛS (UD)

Today we remember the massacre of Porzûs, a slaughter amongst partisan guerilla fighters that occurred between the 7th and the 18th of February 1945.

It was on the eastern border where the Resistance took on very complicated dimensions. On one side there was the Osoppo Division, organised by the Partito d'Azione (Action Party), on the other side the Garibaldi Division, supporter of the Italian Communist Party. Also present in the area were the IX Korpus of the Yugoslav Army for Popular Liberation. Tito was reclaiming the Slav territories of Friuli to reincorporate them to the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Whilst the members of the Garibaldi supported him, those of the Osoppo were opposed. A large fracture developed between the two Divisions.

On the 7th of February 1945, a group of around one hundred partisans of the Garibaldi, under the command of Mario Toffanin, called "Giacca", went into the village of Porzûs, in the Attimis (UD) municipality. It was the overnight camping site of some fighters of the Osoppo. Cunningly, Giacca was able to use the advantage of surprise and gave the order to begin the killings, in part taking place in a farmhouse, shown in the photo, in the nearby place called Topli Uork, but also at the Bosco Romagno near Cividale del Friuli (UD) and in areas nearby.

19 Partisans of the Osoppo were killed and a woman in their custody, Elda Turchetti, accused of spying for the Germans, but had recently been absolved by the Osoppo Partisans. It was this that lit the fuse that incited the massacres, of which the dynamics were never clarified entirely.

Amongst the victims were, Francesco De Gregori, commander at Porzûs none other than the uncle of the homonym singer-songwriter and Guido Pasolini, younger brother of Pier Paolo.

The second photo shows the commemorative plaque on the wall of the farmhouse with the given partisan names of the victims.



Sources: porzus.it; anpi.it; treccani.it; Alessandra Kersevan, *Porzûs. Dialoghi sopra un processo da rifare*, Udine 1995, *passim*; Marina Cattaruzza, *L'Italia e il confine orientale*, Bologna 2007, *passim*; *Il Post*, 30 maggio 2012; *Porzûs. Violenza e Resistenza sul confine orientale*, a cura di Tommaso Piffer, Bologna 2012, *passim*; *La Stampa*, 2 febbraio 2017. Photo: Pro Loco Amici di Porzûs. Thanks also to Noemi Lilian Salvà, Segretary of the Società Friulana Buenos Aires, for the graphic support. The massacre of Porzûs is a controversial subject difficult to read. We advise you to visit the site porzus.it for in depth research and to find out more about the cultural events, aside from these commemorations, organised by the Pro Loco Amici di Porzûs.■

FRIULI LIVES ON... THE NEXT GENERATION!

The photos were taken in November 2020... What do I see?

I see a group of people, in their mid to late 50's which have remained lifelong friends with one thing in common. We all met at the Fogolar Furlan Club Sydney.

As young children we would be hauled to the Club with our siblings/cousins to meet up, if not every, but most weekends, whilst our parents either worked or just wanted to socialise and meet with their Friulian friends. We took part in an array of activities like tennis, table tennis or learning how to play cards and Bocce. Some of the boys played competition soccer on a Sunday, us girls cheered them on. Some of us attended gymnastic lessons which we then performed for the members on big event days like Castagne Day. A few of us were part of the Balletto. Performed at the annual anniversary balls, we also had the exciting experience of performing at the Sydney Opera House.

When we hit our teenage years we had our Debutants Ball. Two of the girls in the group photo are former Miss Fogolar. We formed a Youth Committee in our teenage years, through which we organise day trips, weekend bus trips to the Snow but most memorable, were the Friday Night Discos. I think I am safe to say that most of us in this group photo met our respective partners at, or associated through the Club. We married and continued being involved with the Club. We kept on visiting with our young families celebrating various milestones. In the photo are past committee members as well as one former President.



The group of second generation Friulian-Australians keeping the culture alive. Top from left to right: Cristina Pilotto, Tania Petrucco, Paul and Tonia Ciacchi, Eddy Pilotto. Bottom row; Robbie and Lisa Goldin, Stevan Petrucco, Daniela Castronini, Mark and Mara Petrucco, Denis Castronini.

As our lives became busier, naturally our gatherings became less frequent but we would try to meet for dinner once in a while.

This particular time last November we went away for the weekend to our rural property near Yass NSW.

We had long lunches with the delights of San Daniele prosciutto, Montasio cheese, polenta and fritata, washed down with a good drop of red wine.

We enjoyed a morning of cherry picking, with each of us taking home produce to make all sorts of recipes. We were lucky enough to have Tonia make a Gubana from scratch, from her family recipe, to be enjoyed with the essential coffee.

The emphasis was definitely on food. Of course there was plenty of it. Slow roasting meat by Eddy Pilotto for a wonderful meal under the stars. We sat by the fire at night to toast the end of a wonderful day, again with a nice glass of red. Afterwards, some played a familiar game of Ramino enjoyed with a nightcap. Others stayed up chatting into the night.

What was most noticeable to me is that we are morphing into our parents..... In other words we have common ground with our Friulian heritage that we are so proud of. We understand the food, the humour, the culture which in turn we are now passing on to our children, the second and third generation of Australian/Friulians.

So fear not, the Friulian culture is alive and well, at least in this small group of friends in Sydney Australia.

'VIVA IL FRIUL' ■

Daniela Castronini



GIRO D'ITALIA.

CICLISTA AUSTRALIANO

Il ciclista australiano Rohan Dennis ha ricevuto la targa offerta dai nostri amici dalla Federazione dei Fogolârs del Canada per esser passato per primo, domenica 18 ottobre 2020, sulla vetta di Pala Barzana in una delle due tappe friulane del Giro d'Italia.

L'Associazione dei Fogolârs Furlans d'Australia si aggiunge a congratulare Rohan Dennis per questo grande traguardo, augurando a lui e alla sua squadra un buon proseguimento nella lotta per il prossimo Giro D'Italia nel 2021.

Mandi, Fred Martin

AUSTRALIAN CYCLIST IN THE "GIRO".

The Australian cyclist Rohan Dennis was awarded the plaque from the friends of the Fogolârs Federation of Canada for having crossed the line first on the Pala Barzana Pass on Sunday 18th of October in one of the two stages of the Giro d'Italia run in Friuli.

The Association of the Fogolârs Furlans of Australia joins in to congratulate Rohan Dennis for that great achievement wishing him and his team a successful 2021 Giro. ■ Best regards, Fred Martin



ALISSE DE PAOLI DOCTOR OF MEDICINE



Alisse has recently graduated as Doctor in Medicine from Sydney University and her Nonna, Renata De Paoli, asked us to publish a picture in the Sot La Nape magazine. She sent us the photo and written a short message to go with it:

Alisse De Paoli graduated from the University of Sydney with Doctor of Medicine 2020, pictured with Renata De Paoli (Nonna) and Alberto De Paoli (Father).

"After a year that presented many challenges, this was a very special day to celebrate my achievements with my family. I am so grateful for all their love and support."

I hope you have a lovely Christmas and Happy New Year.

Kind Regards, Alisse.

The Sot la Nape editorial team together with our community join her loved ones in congratulating Alisse for her great achievement and we wish her a very successful long

career in that very humanitarian field of work that she has chosen.

ALISSE DE PAOLI LAUREATA IN MEDICINA

Alisse ha ottenuto di recente la laurea di Dottore in Medicina dall'Università di Sydney. La nonna, Renata De Paoli ci ha gentilmente chiesto di pubblicare la notizia con la foto mandata da Alisse con un piccolo messaggio: Alisse De Paoli laureata dall'Università di Sydney con la laurea di Dottore in Medicina 2020, nella foto con Renata De Paoli (nonna) e Alberto De Paoli (padre). "Dopo un anno che ha presentato molte difficoltà, questa è stata una giornata molto speciale nel celebrare questo successo con la mia famiglia. Sono fortemente grata per il loro amore e sostegno". ■

Saluti, Alisse.

SAPPADA (PLODN) REUNITED WITH THE “PICCOLA PATRIA” Lucio Rupil

The Municipality of Sappada, arguably the pearl of the Friulian Dolomites, was officially reunited with the Friuli Venezia Giulia Autonomous Region by an Act of the Italian Parliament in 2017. It followed the referendum ten years earlier and the long campaign for the reunification with the historical motherland that ended with the official request being accepted by the Regional Council in 2010.

The settlement, together with the Cadore region, was handed to the Patriarch of Aquileia by King Henry IV of Greater Bavaria in 1077 and remained in the Patriarchate until the eighteenth century although under the dominion of the Serenissima from 1420. After the wars of independence of the 19th century it was retained as part of the province of Belluno in the Veneto Region.

Sappada is a German dialect speaking island located in a spectacular valley in the Carnian Dolomites area of Friuli bordering Austria. Its name in local Plodarisch dialect, is Plodn, derived from the river Ploden (Piave) which runs through the valley and is considered the Italian Sacred River for the epic battles fought on its banks that turned the tide in the First World War. Sappada is closely related to the villages of Sauris (Zahre), located two valleys further south, where a very similar dialect is spoken.

The upper Piave valley lays between the Mount Peralba group to the north, site of the spring which is the source of the Piave River, and the Pesarine Dolomites to the south. Ideally located at an altitude of 1,200 metres above sea level, it has developed into a very popular tourist destination for summer recreational activities and winter sports. There are many trekking opportunities with well signed trails for everyone, from leisurely fir tree forests strolls to challenging mountaineering climes.

A traditional religious-cultural event, over a century old, for the Sappada community, joined by many trekking enthusiasts from other areas, is the annual pilgrimage on foot over the Alpine passes to arrive at the monastery of Santa Maria in Luggau (Kärnten), Austria.



Panorama of Sappada and the upper Piave Valley.

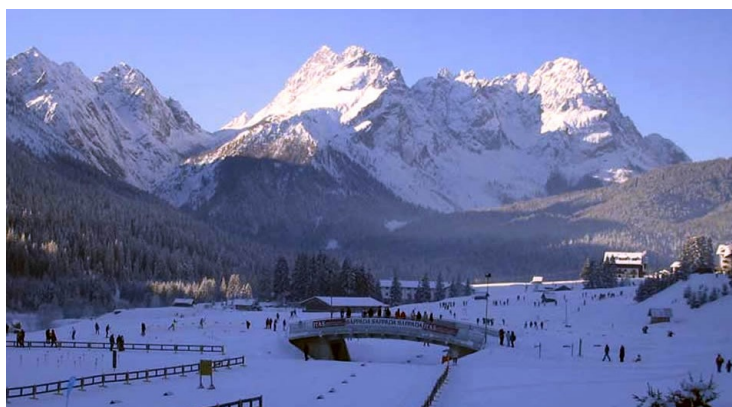
Il Comune di Sappada, discutibilmente la perla delle Dolomiti Friulane, fu ufficialmente reunita alla Regione Autonoma Friuli Venezia Giulia tramite Decreto Parlamentare nel 2017. Questo seguì il referendum di dieci anni prima e la lunga campagna per la riunificazione con la storica Madrepatria che terminò con la richiesta ufficiale accettata dal Consiglio Regionale nel 2010.

L'insediamento, insieme a tutto il Cadore, fu allocato al Patriarca di Aquileia dal Re Enrico IV di Baviera nel 1077 e rimase nel Patraricato fino al 18tesimo secolo seppure sotto il dominio della Serenissima dal 1420. Dopo le guerre di indipendenza del 19novesimo secolo fu ritenuto parte della provincia di Belluno nella Regione Veneto.

Sappada è un isolato di dialetto tedesco situato in una vallata spettacolare nella zona delle Dolomiti Carniche confinante con l'Austria. Il nome, in dialetto locale (Plodarisch), è Plodn che deriva dal fiume Ploden (Piave) il quale scorre tutta la vallata ed è considerato il Fiume Sacro d'Italia per le epiche battaglie combattute nella Prima Guerra Mondiale che cambiarono il corso del conflitto. Sappada è strettamente legata ai villaggi di Sauris (Zahre), situati un paio di vallate più a sud dove un dialetto molto simile è parlato.

La valle superiore del Piave è contenuta dal Gruppo del Monte Peralba a nord, sito della sorgente del Fiume Sacro, e le Dolomiti Pesarine a sud. Idealmente situata ad un'altitudine di 1200 metri, si è sviluppata in una zona turistica molto popolare per vacanze estive e invernali. Esistono una moltitudine di sentieri ben segnalati per gli amanti del trekking, dalle passeggiate nelle abetaie alle sfidanti scalate per gli alpinisti.

One of the main attraction are the numerous facilities to practice winter sports surrounded by the spectacular Dolomites.





Other groups also start off at Forni Avoltri and as far as Sauris to join the walk. The walk winds its way for about 30 km through some spectacular mountain scenery to reach the Sanctuary. The participants then find their way home by public or private transport.

Other attractions include demonstrations in ancient farming practices and wood carving, camping sites, the heritage protected Alpinpark ancient village with buildings constructed entirely of wood, the Little Museum of the Great War, the site of the River Piave spring at the foot of Mt Peralba and many more.

For the skiing enthusiasts, Sappada offers numerous piste for all difficulties with modern ascent facilities.



Leisure activities; at top ski fields for all levels of ability.
Above all levels of trekking trails.

Without a doubt all Friulians have welcome with open arms the reunification of the Municipality of Sappada to the historic "Piccola Patria" and are happy to support the tourist attractions it has to offer even more so than they did in the past. It pays tribute to the success and prosperity achieved by the Autonomous Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia since it was proclaimed nearly six decades ago.■

The Giro d'Italia visited Sappada many times either passing through or as the finish line for some stages after a gruelling climb to reach it from the eastern or the western approaches.

Una tradizione religiosa-culturale che risale da oltre un secolo per la comunità sappadina, congiunta con molti entusiasti del trekking da altre parti, è il pellegrinaggio annuale a piedi via i passi alpini per raggiungere il Monastero di Santa Maria di Luggau a Kärnten in Austria. La camminata serpeggia per parecchi chilometri tra scenari montani spettacolari per arrivare al Santuario. I partecipanti si arrangiano per il ritorno via mezzi pubblici o privati.

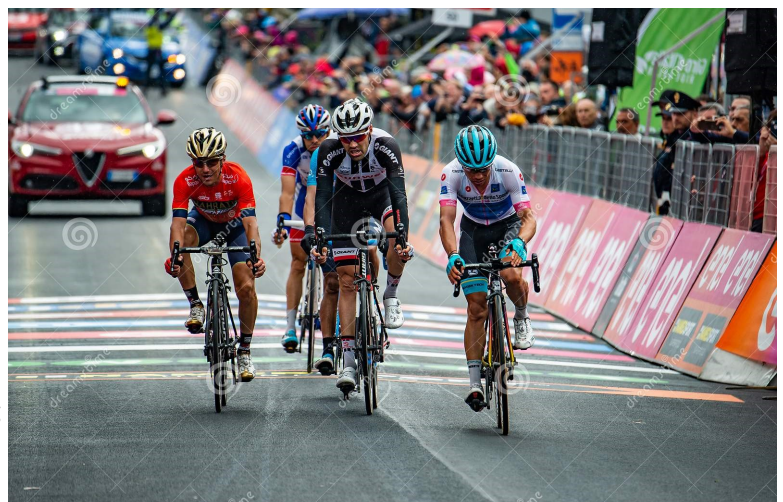
Altre attrazioni includono dimostrazioni in antichi metodi di agricoltura e lavorazioni in legno, ampi spazi per campeggio, il villaggio Alpinpark conservato per valore storico con edifici costruiti interamente in legno, il Piccolo Museo della Grande Guerra e la sorgente del Fiume Sacro ai piedi del monte Peralba.

Per gli sciatori entusiasti, Sappada offre numerose piste per tutte le difficoltà con impianti di risalita modersissimi.



The northern culture influence is very visible in the buildings made entirely of wood.

Senza dubbio tutti i friulani accolsero a braccia aperte la riunificazione del Comune di Sappada con la storica Piccola Patria e sono felici di sostenere le attrazioni turistiche ancor più che nel passato. E di gran tributo al successo ed alla prosperità ottenuti dalla Regione Autonoma da quando fu proclamata circa una sessantina d'anni fa. ■



HISTORY, FLORA AND FAUNA OF THE FORESTS OF MUZZANA DEL TURGNANO AND THE "FRIULIAN PLAINS". By Massimo Bianco. English translation by Lucio Rupil.

At the end of the tertiary era that which today is the Pianura Padana, was an ample cove flooded by the sea, a sort of large Golf contained at north by the Alps and at south by the Northern Appennines. Around 1.8 million years ago (Pliocene, Pleistocene eras) the vast Golf due to the flood waters descending from the Alps was transformed making space for new colonising plants. The types of vegetation changed depending on the diverse climatic periods that the plains had to confront, until at the beginning of the preboreal period (8200 BC), first postglacial phase, the progressive increase of the temperature cast out the Silvestre pine and the birch towards the mountains (Easter Alps) until they disappeared from the plains. The progress accelerated in the Boreal era (6800-5500BC) in which a warm and dry climate dominated.

In the Atlantic era (5500-2500BC), the warm and humid climate favoured the expansion of the oak, beech and fir.

The Carpineto Oak, the present climax forest of the Po Plains, should have established in a more recent era during the period sub-Atlantic (800BC).

LOWER FRIULI AND ITS RECLAMATIONS.

From historic times the Friulian Plains was a vast expanse of uncultivated land, gravelly, with meagre pastures and arid paddocks, interrupted by bush. For centuries man thought to intervene to render this land fertile and cultivable, but the equipment and the rudimental technologies of those days forced to slip away all the good intensions until the middle of the nineteen century.

From then on until the twenties of the last century the Pianura Friulana was subjected to works of reclamation and resettling of the territory. In the early years of the twenties, undoubtedly also following the flood of the Cormor River as well as the other Friulian rivers, elementary Consortiums were formed favoured by the strong debate taking place in Friuli as to where these reclamations were to take place.

The Friulian plains at that time could have been defined as: the northern part characterised by the emerging river waters, nearly totally swampy (25.000 hectares), an intermediate zone where you could find meadows dry in the main and forested areas (23.000 hectares) and the lower zone consisting of swamps (21.000 hectares).



Transizione da magredo pionieristico in primo piano a bosco in secondo piano.

Al termine dell'era Terziaria quella che è oggi la Pianura Padana era un' ampia insenatura occupata dal mare, una specie di grande Golfo delimitato a Nord dalle Alpi e a Sud dall'Appennino settentrinale. Circa 1.800.000 anni fa (Pliocene, Pleistocene) il grande Golfo padano grazie alle alluvioni provenienti dalle Alpi andò a trasformarsi lasciando spazio a nuove piante colonizzatrici. I tipi di vegetazione cambiarono a seconda dei diversi periodi climatici che la pianura dovette affrontare, finchè all'inizio del periodo preboreale (8200 a.C.), prima fase posglaciale, il progressivo aumento della temperature scacciò il pino silvestre e la betulla verso la montagna (Alpi orientali) fino a farli sparire dalla pianura. Il processo si accentuò nel Boreale (6800-5500 a.C.) nel quale dominò un clima caldo e secco.

Nell'Atlantico (5500-2500 a.C.), il clima caldo-umido favorì l'espandersi del querceto con faggi e abeti.

Il querceto-carpineto, l'attuale foresta climax della Pianura Padana, si sarebbe installato in un'epoca più recente, durante il periodo sub-atlantico (800 a.C.).

La Bassa Pianura Friulana e le sue bonifiche.

Dai tempi storici la Pianura Friulana era una vasta estensione di terreni incolti, ghiaiosi, con pascoli magri e campagne aride, interrotte da boschi. Da secoli l'uomo pensò di intervenire per rendere questa terra fertile e coltivabile, ma i mezzi e le tecniche rudimentali di quel tempo fecero slittare tutte le buone intenzioni fino alla metà dell'Ottocento.

Dalla metà dell'Ottocento fino agli anni Venti del Novecento la Pianura Friulana fu soggetta a opere di intervento di bonifica e di riassetto del territorio.

Nei primi anni Venti del Novecento, sicuramente anche in seguito alla storica piena del Cormor e di tutti i fiumi friulani, si costituirono i Consorzi elementari di primo grado, favoriti anche dal forte dibattito in corso in Friuli sugli indirizzi da imprimere alle bonifiche.

La Pianura Friulana in questo periodo poteva essere suddivisa in tre zone: una zona superiore, caratterizzata dal fenomeno della risorgenza, quasi totalmente impaludata (25.000 ettari) una zona intermedia dove si trovavano prati prevalentemente asciutti ed aree boschive (23.000 ettari) ed una zona inferiore costituita prevalentemente da paludi (21.000 ettari)

In 1926 the “Progetto di Bonifica Bassa Friulana” was published, where it showed the evidence of the necessity to reclaim the zone of the re-emergence of the middle areas, manifesting the importance of the irrigation of the land, of the potable water, of the hydraulic defence of the Corno and of the Cormor and of the construction of means of communication. Sadly, for various reasons, the project didn't take off and the promises of development and social benefits vanished in a short time with many manual workers forced to abandon their own land and look for work abroad.



Tagliamento allo sbocco nella pianura friulana nei pressi di Ragogna.

Nel 1926 fu pubblicato il “Progetto di Bonifica Bassa Friulana”, dove si evidenziava la necessità del prosciugamento dei terreni nella zona delle risorgive e nella zona intermedia, manifestando l'importanza dell'irrigazione dei fondi, dell'acqua potabile, della difesa

Only in the post war period, first by the former Consorzio di bonifica della Bassa Friulana (1929) and then by the Ufficio del Genio Civile di Udine (1936) that the work of containment was addressed with purpose made reservoirs in the Sant'Andrat zone. Work for the construction of the basin with a capacity of 800.000 cubic metres started in 1938 and finished in 1956 employing many Friulian labourers. The area below Sant'Andrat di Corno as far as Torsa and Paradiso was known as the “Palude di Mortegliano” and although was part of the municipalities of Castions di Strada, Talmasson and Pocenia, went by that name as it constituted a communal benefit to the Mortegliano community. This area was characterised by a dense waterways network fed by the re-emerging rivers.

At this point remained to resolve permanently the problem of the irrigation system of the river Cormor down to the lagoon.

Between 1947 and 1950 various projects proposed for a good system of irrigation and drainage became reality.

One of the last carried out along the Cormor was the channel system from Mortegliano to Castions di Strada carried out in 1979-1982.

In the ambit of the millenarian history of integration of mankind with the Friulian Plains and the river Cormor, the twentieth century represents the time when the major changes of reclamation and of waterways management happened in Lower Friuli (Bassa Friulana).■



The Cormor river.

idraulica del Corno e del Cormor e della costruzione di vie di comunicazione. Purtroppo per varie cause il “Progetto di Bonifica Friulana” non partì e le promesse di sviluppo e sicurezza sociale andarono ben presto a svanire, e molti braccianti furono costretti ad abbandonare le proprie terre per cercare lavoro all'estero.

Solo nel primo dopoguerra, prima dall'ex Consorzio di Bonifica Della Bassa Friulana (1929) e poi dall'Ufficio del Genio Civile di Udine(1936) vennero indirizzati lavori di contenimento con appositi serbatoi di espansione delle acque nella zona di Sant'Andrat. I lavori per la costruzione del serbatoio di capienza di 800.000m³ cominciarono nel 1938 e terminarono nel 1956 dando lavoro a molti braccianti friulani. La zona posta al disotto di Sant'Andrat del Cormor fino a Torsa e Paradiso era nota come “palude di Mortegliano” e benchè ricadesse nei territori dei Comuni di Castions di Strada, Talmassons e Pocenia, portava quell'appellativo in quanto costituiva un bene collettivo della comunità morteglianese. Questa zona era caratterizzata da una fittissima rete di corsi d'acqua e olle, alimentati dalla risorgenza freatica.

A questo punto restava solo da risolvere definitivamente la questione della canalizzazione del fiume Cormor fino alla laguna.

Fra il 1947 e il 1950 vari progetti vennero proposti e un buon sistema idraulico venne realizzato. Il nuovo corso del Cormor, in tal modo, non solo venne a scaricare le acque di piena del torrente ma funzionò anche come principale colatore della zona fra il fiume Stella e il fiume Corno che mancava della necessaria rete di scoli e dove i modesti alvei delle rogge esistenti non bastavano a garantire l'importante funzione di deflusso. Uno degli ultimi lavori eseguiti lungo il torrente Cormor riguarda la canalizzazione del suo corso da Mortegliano a Castions di Strada eseguito tra il 1979 e il 1982. Nell'ambito della millenaria storia di interazione fra l'uomo, la Pianura Friulana e il fiume Cormor, il Novecento ha rappresentato dunque il tempo dove i maggiori cambiamenti di bonifica e di regimentazione delle acque sono stati fatti nella Bassa Pianura Friulana■

LETTER BY CLEO BOREAN TO NONNO ALEX BOREAN

3rd of May 2020.

My dearest Nonno,

You have probably opened this thinking "why has Cleo written to me at home".

Today I am writing a letter to you after reading your book "Once upon a time there was a Nonno"Alex Borean.

During this period of time (Covid) I wanted to read about your life, your culture, our Borean roots, our family, Friuli, growing up, love, becoming a Nonno, coming to Australia and your work. All I can say is ...WOW. I have never cried, smiled, laughed and loved reading a book so much, so I thank you for this experience.

Firstly, I would like to say it has taken me to the age of twenty to read this, as I wanted to truly understand every moment and situation you have been presented with. I also might add that I am so happy I waited to read it, as I have new understanding and learnings about the Borean family. Over the course of reading the book, I learned so much about your youthful years, growing up having nothing, working extremely hard, and always trying your best in everything (which you are still doing) and want to note a few bits of your book which strike me.

One of the many interesting and early part of your life which made me smile, was the growing of vegetables, which you still do today. Reading about all types of vegetables grown on a small patch of land, working long days, then helping out around the property, warmed my heart. When I read this, all I could picture is you taking care of your veggies in Ryde with passion and love, showing part of your youthful life. Obviously back during this time, you didn't have 'Coles' or 'Wollies', so to see you still growing fresh veggies today, brings a smile to my face.

Another moment in the book which brought chills to my bones was War. I must say I personally have lots to still learn about history, the War and its impact, and regularly talk to Dad about people in our family who did go to War in order for us to enjoy what we have today. Reading about your father at War and not being present in your life, made me emotional, but understand now the situation. Additionally, the chilling story of your father's journey home and coming back into the family, brought me to tears. Moments and experiences like this about your life, makes me realise how lucky I am. In some way I wish all the Bis-Nonni were alive to talk about their lives and sing with them, but am forever grateful to you for capturing this in your book. I hope I'm not boring you with my letter yet.

The next part of your book which I have thought about constantly, is regarding your mosaic work.



Watching you firsthand over the years, creating absolutely amazing, incredible and breathtakingly beautiful mosaics which are so special, and made with so much love. Reading about your time in the medieval town of the Spillimbergo Mosaic School, left me speechless. Understanding the subjects, materials, projects and methods, in creating beautiful works.

Additionally, the dedication you had as a young boy (and still to this day) of perfecting your art, again, amazes me. On a personal level, the commitment your Dad undertook, in sending you to that school, when he couldn't afford it. Nonno, I am so beyond sure, to my absolute bones, that your Dad would be so proud of you and the life of your mosaic works continuing, your determination to help out, even without the knowledge of the English language, and am emotional writing about it. I hope you know how special your work is, and how we are all so proud of you. I could really keep writing about this, but, I'll move on.

One of the most special and important parts of this book, is you meeting my beautiful Nonna. What a fantastic story about how you met. Additionally learning about the Celli family, about Bis-Nonno Elio coming from nothing, and being a top tradesman. About the hard work of Bis-Nonna Lucia, as nothing came easy. I also learned about the connections of Haberfield, your friends of both your families, up to the time you got married, and beyond. You and Nonna are so special, not only to me, but each person in our family, and we are so incredibly lucky to have you both in our lives.

I could just keep writing and writing this letter, I really could, but, before I finish up, I would like to again say thank you. Thank you for being you and showing us the way. Thank you for teaching us about our roots and your life. Thank you for teaching us about your trade and culture. I have, and always will have, so much respect for who you are and where you came from. As I said earlier, we will never fully understand how lucky we really are, but, I know from reading your book, I can definitely be more grateful for the little things...and, MOST of all and most importantly, thank you for being our Nonno. You mean the absolute world to us and we love you so incredibly much. Your book has revealed so much about the family history, and you fill my heart with so much pride and joy.

Honestly it's a privilege to be a Borean and part of this amazing family.

Thank you for taking time to read my letter in response to your story.

Love from your second granddaughter■
Cleo Borean.