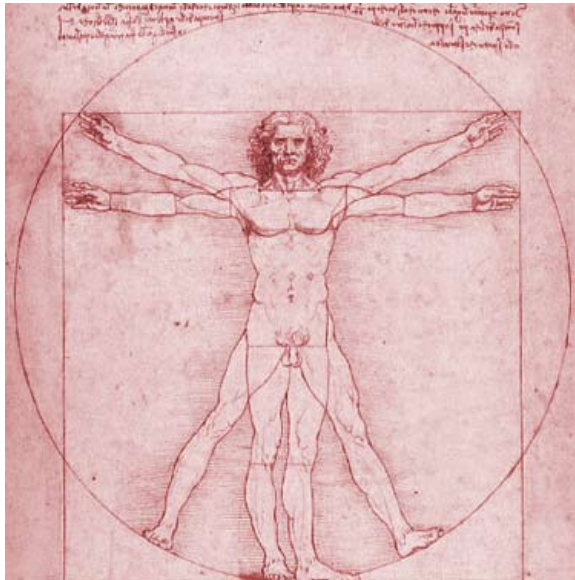


Journal of Italian Literature and Culture

La Fusta



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We would like to thank the Department of Italian, the Graduate School of Rutgers University, the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, the Graduate Student Association and Rutgers College for the financial support that enabled us, the Italian Graduate Society, to hold our conference *Mythamorphoses: Collective Myth and Italian Literature*. We would particularly like to express our gratitude to the New Jersey Italian and Italian American Heritage Commission and to all the commissioners for their generous contribution to our project, without which this publication would not be possible.

Our special thanks go to the graduate collaborators, the faculty of the Italian Department, our most dear and helpful secretary, Carol Feinberg, and all conference participants.

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INTRODUCTION

This current issue of *La Fusta* contains selected essays from the Fall 2005 conference entitled *Mythamorphoses: Collective Myth and Italian Literature*. Collective myth is a powerful and notable phenomenon in Italian literature and culture, which expresses needs, embodies ideals, and affects individuals as well as society as a whole. Our conference examined ways in which all of these codified images of places, individuals and events have developed and fuelled artistic creation, at times becoming the product of literature itself.

In her opening presentation, *Myths, Monuments, and Martyrs: the Contemporary Anti-Mafia as Epitaph*, keynote speaker Professor Millicent Marcus set the course for the conference discussion of contemporary myths. She launched our exploration of cultural myth such as Romanticism and death, ideological myth as manifest in fascist political power, personal myth in contemporary magical realism, and literary myth that encompasses classical and medieval texts. Evoking the myth of the voyage, keynote speaker Professor Pier Massimo Forni concluded the conference calling attention to the journey itself with his closing presentation entitled *Dante Mythographer of Modernity*.

Only a cross-section of the conference's wide-ranging discourse of myth is represented here. Each essay approaches the topic with considerable enthusiasm towards the theme. In addition, the latter section of *La Fusta* is dedicated to the creative expression of collective myth with translations, poetry and photography.

This edition of *La Fusta*, conceived of intellectual dialogue, lives up to its namesake as an exploration vessel reaching new shores of scholarship.

Stella Maniscalco
Monica Bilotta
Deena Levy
Johanna Rossi Wagner

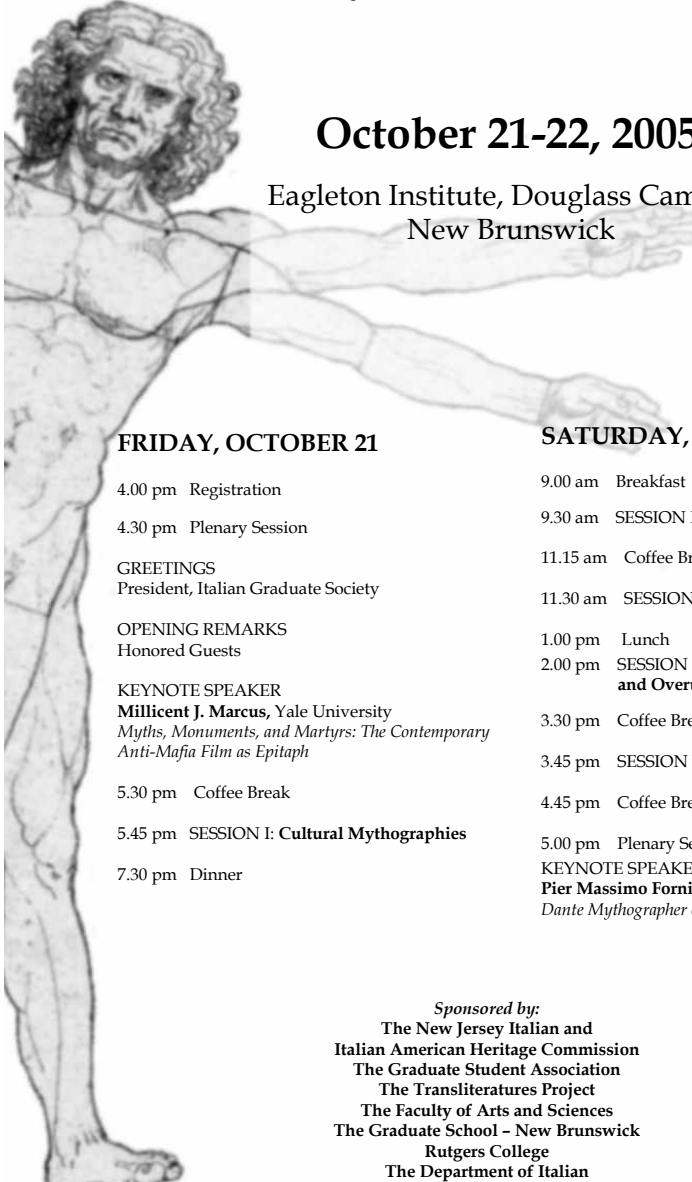
Conference presented by The Italian Graduate Society, Rutgers University

Mythamorphoses

Collective Myth and Italian Literature

October 21-22, 2005

Eagleton Institute, Douglass Campus
New Brunswick



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21

4.00 pm Registration

4.30 pm Plenary Session

GREETINGS

President, Italian Graduate Society

OPENING REMARKS

Honored Guests

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Millicent J. Marcus, Yale University
*Myths, Monuments, and Martyrs: The Contemporary
Anti-Mafia Film as Epitaph*

5.30 pm Coffee Break

5.45 pm **SESSION I: Cultural Mythographies**

7.30 pm Dinner

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22

9.00 am Breakfast

9.30 am **SESSION II: Poetic and Religious Myths**

11.15 am Coffee Break

11.30 am **SESSION III: Personal Mythographies**

1.00 pm Lunch

2.00 pm **SESSION IV: 20TH Century: Empty Myths
and Overused Stereotypes**

3.30 pm Coffee Break

3.45 pm **SESSION V: Myths of Italy**

4.45 pm Coffee Break

5.00 pm Plenary Session

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Pier Massimo Forni, Johns Hopkins University
Dante Mythographer of Modernity

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