



*February 2014*

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# The CanaDiana Club Newsletter

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## *CanaDiana's Winter Note*

We are faring through our first winter, encouraged to go on by what we have been able to accomplish so far. The responsibility of CanaDiana's next newsletter will be taken more fully by Alessandra Bordini, but this time I would like to seize the opportunity of a first note to send out President Ghilardi's and my own personal thanks to those whose help has been instrumental in CanaDiana's taking off.

Thank you, then, to: Stefania Bocchino and Andrea Borracelli for creating the Association's logo; Alessandra Bordini for generously acting as liason with Canada and being invaluable in engaging the interest of new members; Dirigenti Scolastici Valeria Bertusi and Antonio Vannini, who have always been ready to offer a lively venue for our meetings in their schools; Laura Failli for her continuous painstaking and always successful efforts to entice her students into the study of Canadian culture and literature; Linda Knowles who launched CanaDiana in the September 2013 issue of *CanText* (the Newsletter of the BACS Literature Group) in the UK, and at a subsequent seminar in Siena, and who has promised to us her group's future support with publicity through their journal; and thank you, as ever, to Luca Trabalzini on whose computer skills and advice we have always been able to count.

Pursuing its declared objectives, and following a long tradition which had once been carried out at the Siena-Toronto Centre, since its birth last May CanaDiana has focused on encounters with Canadian writers and Canadian Studies scholars, as well as on the discussion, promotion and translation of their works, undertaking or participating in the initiatives in or outside Siena described below.

On May 22, 2013, at The Bookshop-Siena we presented Canadian writer Deborah Willis and *Vanishing*, her collection of stories published in Italy by Del Vecchio Editore with the title *Svanire*. Deborah Willis talked about her book with her translators Anna Baldini and Paola Del Zoppo, and with journalist Annalisa Coppolaro. Valentina Guarnieri and Erica Margaret Bocci contributed their vocal and piano backing.

On October 10, 2013, Genni Gunn was invited to the same place for the launch of the Italian version of her novel *Solitaria*. Linda Knowles was also there to give her talk



Genni Gunn reading at *The BookShop-Siena* with Linda Knowles

Left to right: Laura Ferri, Linda Knowles (BACS Literature Group), Isabella Martini (translator), Genni Gunn, Lisa Fallon (BookShop owner), Fabrizio Felici (publisher).

“Dead or Canadian: Changing Impressions of Canadian Writers in the UK.” She later wrote about the event in *CanText* like this: “I found myself in the elegant salon of Siena’s Pensione Palazzo Ravizza, seated beside the Steinway piano donated by Helen Frick (founder of the Frick Gallery in New York) where Evelyn Waugh and Aldous Huxley once stayed. [...] I had been invited by Laura Forconi Ferri of the new CanaDiana Club (see *CanText* 15:2) to speak [...] about Canadian literary studies in the United Kingdom. It was then my pleasant task to introduce

Canadian author Genni Gunn who read excerpts from her novel *Solitaria* (Signature Editions, 2010), followed by students reading the same passages from Isabella Martini’s newly-published Italian translation (Felici Editore, 2013). I am very grateful to Laura Forconi Ferri for introducing me to Genni Gunn, [...] to Lisa Fallon, the proprietor of *The BookShop* (Siena’s only English-language book shop) for hosting the seminar, and to Siena’s Liceo Scientifico G. Galilei & Liceo Linguistico e Biologico Monna Agnese for bringing their students.”

On October 22, 2013, at Liceo Scientifico Galilei, Fabrizio Ghilardi gave a thought-provoking lecture about “Identity, Interculturalism, and Universalisms.” He was introduced by Dirigente Scolastico Antonio Vannini and his talk was received with great interest by the students.

During the first two weeks of October, Liceo Scientifico and Liceo Linguistico students were given ample opportunity to learn about Canlit through the seminars offered by Jon Redfern and coordinated by their teachers Laura Failli and Simona Tavarnelli in their schools.

On November 15, 2013, the symposium organized by Caterina Ricciardi at Roma Tre University was an occasion for CanaDiana to make its first appearance outside Siena, with President Fabrizio Ghilardi’s address and my presentation “Dancing with Memory towards Awareness in Olive Senior’s and Others’ Stories.”



Left to right: Cathy Graham and Jane Urquhart, hostesses of the event at Massey College, University of Toronto.

Later in the month Jane Urquhart and Cathy Graham’s invitation for Sandro Forconi and myself to Toronto and to a celebration at Massey College (University of Toronto) allowed us to strengthen long-time links with Canadian writers and leading cultural personalities (Janice and Michael Keefer, Bill Graham, Dennis Lee, Adrienne Clarkson, John Ralston Saul, Michael Ondaatje, Leon Rooke, Linda Spalding, Rosemary Sullivan, Tony Urquhart, Joe Fiorito, among others) as well as to establish new contacts for CanaDiana. Talks with Jane and Tony Urquhart, Janice and Michael Keefer or with Antanas

and Snaige Sileika made us hope they will return to Siena, albeit at some not yet identified time, while from our meeting with Olive Senior ensued her more definite promise to come



Left to right: Michael Ondaatje, Sandro Forconi, Laura Ferri, Leon Rooke at Massey College, University of Toronto.

to Italy during next Fall, to contribute to a CanaDiana project involving Mary Condé (Queen Mary) as well. We wish we could recreate for our future Canadian visitors a meeting place like the one of the old Siena-Toronto days, which Janice Kulyk Keefer recollected at Massey College, on December 3, 2013:

“[W]hat a privilege to be within the [Siena-Toronto Centre’s] well-provisioned walls, meeting students and professors, exchanging ideas and impressions, browsing among the

bookshelves, revelling in the Renaissance beauties of the lecture hall during conferences, mindful all the time of how much time and effort Laura and Sandro were putting into the smooth running of this invaluable meeting place for Italians and wandering Canadese. There is an art to creating an ambience in which intellectual and aesthetic matters thrive rather than sigh in a corner; an art to connecting visiting lecturers with resident specialists, artists on tour with informed and enthusiastic audiences.[...] this art of bringing different people and places so valuably together has created a model, an unforgettable topos, of what can be done with that immense amount of love and labour and imagination.”

Our new year’s activities began on January 31 in Lucca where Fabrizio Ghilardi invited Caterina Ricciardi and myself to celebrate Alice Munro and share our commentaries with Rosalba Casella in front of a vast audience. The initiative, promoted by the Comune di Lucca and the Società Lucchese dei Lettori, opened a new possibility of collaboration. Seeking co-operative ties with other associations and institutions is part of our stated intentions. So far, through the memberships of Licia Canton (Montreal) and Antanas Sileika (Toronto), CanaDiana has established links respectively with AICW (The Association of Italian Canadian Writers) and with the Writers’ School of Humber College. We are also pursuing future collaboration with the Associations Auser (presided by Maria Luisa Farsi) and Culture Attive (co-ordinated by Carolina Taddei) in San Gimignano.



*Round Table in Lucca celebrating Alice Munro*

Left to right: Caterina Ricciardi (Roma Tre), Fabrizio Ghilardi (Pisa), Laura Ferri, Rosalba Casella (Società Lucchese dei Lettori).

In between the events mentioned above we have been busy ‘translating’ Canada to Italy and editing essays to be assembled for possible publications. For example, Moira Mini has translated into Italian the short story “Fever” written by our fellow member Jon Redfern. Moira will present her translation “Febbre,” to initiate a reading series aimed at the dissemination of

Canlit and Canadian culture, pre-eminently among pre-university students. Please, send in original English versions of your published or unpublished poems, stories, essays, reviews of new Canadian novels, excerpts from your works or from the works by others, in order to share them within our group of CanaDiana associates, or to make them accessible to the community at large. There will be students at different levels – from high school to Master courses – and some more experienced translators who will volunteer to translate your contributions, and eventually publish them online. Moira Mini, Alessandra Bordini, and Flavia Franco and Claudia Giovannini (graduate students from Roma Tre University) are ready to carry out the task for CanaDiana.

Also, please send in your suggestions or whatever comment you would like to circulate through CanaDiana's next newsletter.

Aside from a Translation Workshop Series – editing and translation groups of CanaDiana's volunteer translators – and a Book Club cycle of open meetings where students and anyone interested read and discuss books based on an agreed-upon topic, public events to be foreseen for next Spring and Fall are the following: lecture by Mary Kay Lowy (psychoanalyst, Toronto) on the topic of psychoanalysis and art; lecture by Elizabeth Wickett and Stephen Brichieri-Colombi (Synaquanon Association) on the geopolitics of water in the Nile basin; lecture by Helena Fracchia and Maurizio Gualtieri (University of Alberta School in Cortona) on their archeological research in Italy; presentations by Anna Foschi (Italian Cultural Centre, Vancouver) on the topics of immigration, food and cultural heritage; Fabrizio Ghilardi talking on multiculturalism at the annual event "Nottilucente" organized in San Gimignano by the Association Culture Attive; Caterina Ricciardi introducing and talking with Darko Suvin about his book *Defined by a Hollow. Essays on Utopia, Science Fiction and Political Epistemology*; annual Seminar Series conducted by Jon Redfern and coordinated by Laura Failli and Simona Tavarnelli at Liceo Scientifico G. Galilei and Liceo Linguistico Monna Agnese; presentations by writer Olive Senior with Canadian Studies scholar Mary Condé; readings of Nino Ricci's *Lives of the Saints* with translator Gabriella Iacobucci and possible exhibition of Tony Urquhart's drawings illustrating the Twentieth Anniversary Edition of the book. You will receive further information about the initiatives we have foreseen as soon as details and dates are firmed.

Looking forward to your contributions and proposals, I wish you all to proceed successfully in your own different fields of research and interests.

Laura Ferri

*N.B. Preferisco trasmettere in inglese il resumé delle nostre iniziative e il mio grazie a chi ha dato sostegno pratico al decollo di CanaDiana, per facilitare la comunicazione con gli associati di Oltreoceano e Oltre Manica, ai quali principalmente è diretta questa nota. È d'altronde possibile in ogni momento stabilire contatti telefonici o incontri chiarificatori estemporanei con coloro che risiedono in Italia. Ritengo pertanto inutile tradurre in italiano questo mio saluto a tutti voi.*

*L'assemblaggio della parte testuale con quella grafica è sin da ora curato da Alessandra Bordini.*



Liceo Scientifico Galileo Galilei di Siena  
Via Cesare Battisti 13, 53100 Siena

**Martedì 22 ottobre 2013, ore 11.30**

**Fabrizio Ghilardi (Università di Pisa)**

terrà una conferenza dal titolo

***Identità, Interculturalità, Universalismi.***

***Gli Occidentali e gli Altri***

Introdurrà il Dirigente Scolastico, Prof. Antonio Vannini

Coordinerà l'incontro Laura Failli, docente delle classi VC e VE

Info: Liceo Scientifico, tel.: 0577 49456; Laura Failli, cell.:3394979717



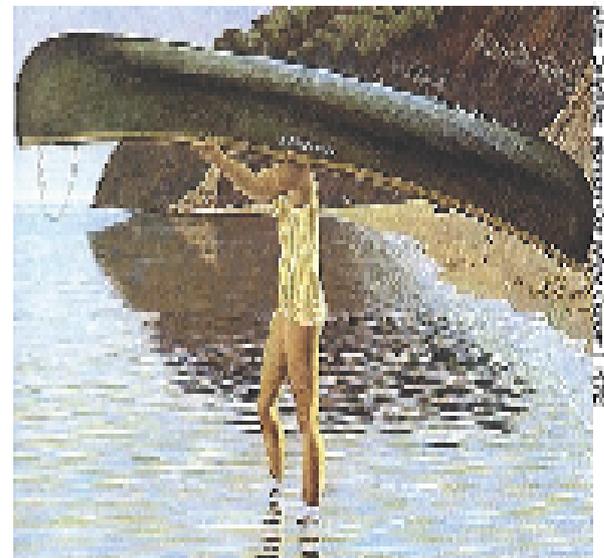
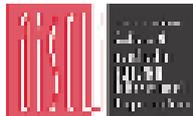
Government of Canada  
**Embassy of Canada**

Gouvernement du Canada  
**Ambassade du Canada**



Government of Canada  
Embassy of Canada

Gouvernement du Canada  
Ambassade du Canada



## A Symposium

November 15, 2013

### SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Caterina Ricciardi  
Laura Porconi-Ferrì

### Teatrocomunità

Deia La Ferla, Paolo Mariani, Marco Agnà, Roberto De Vecchia



Città di Lucca



SOCIETÀ LUCCHESI  
DEI  
LETTORI

IL COMUNE di LUCCA  
*in collaborazione con la SOCIETÀ LUCCHESI DEI LETTORI*  
PRESENTA

in **TAVOLA ROTONDA** su  
**La LUNGA STRADA di ALICE MUNRO**  
verso il **PREMIO NOBEL 2013**



*Nella foto: Alice Munro Premio Nobel per la Letteratura 2013*

PARTECIPANO

*Prof.ssa* CATERINA RICCIARDI

*Prof.ssa* LAURA FERRI FORCONI

*Prof.ssa* ROSALBA CASELLA PAIOTTA

MODERATORE

*Prof.* FABRIZIO GHILARDI

**VENERDI 31 GENNAIO 2014**

ORE 17:00

VILLA BOTTINI LUCCA

*La Cittadinanza è invitata - Ingresso Libero*