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Dear Friends,

Already over a month into the New Year, I would like to send you all my very belated best wishes for the months to come.

You have been kept posted by e-mails and various announcements of the activities carried out since our latest newsletter, so this will be mainly an acknowledgement and 'thank you' letter including mention of some activities which may have not been advertised.

Thanks must be reiterated to the Hon. William Graham whose talk with cultural personalities in "Santa Maria della Scala" Museum in Siena has been the highlight of CanaDiana recent events.

Equal heartfelt thanks are due to other scholars, writers and diplomats who have travelled from Toronto, London UK, and Rome to Siena offering productive occasions to disseminate knowledge of Canada among scholars, students and the community at large. Hence we are grateful to Mary Condé, Richard Greene, Francesco Francioni, Louis Saint-Arnaud, Peter McKellar, Maureen Scott Harris, Nicoletta Barbarito, Francesca Valente, Jon Redfern, Yves Frenette.

For some of them we planned lecturing tours to the U of Bologna at Centro Canadese "Alfredo Rizzardi." There, thanks to its director Professor Carla Comellini, CanaDiana's guest speakers have often been invited to land, while the Centro Canadese' own projects have often been shared with our association.

The gratitude to people at this end goes first of all to teachers like Laura Failli, Simona Tavarnelli, Catia Zottola, Claudia Livide, Robert Patrizio, Vincenzo Vullo, as well as to their principals, Sabina Pirri, Valeria Bertusi, Antonio Vannini, who have provided CanaDiana's guests with ample audiences of very responsive students. It also goes to Professors Laura Caretti (U of S) and Pia Kleber (U of T) for having staged within their project the encounter with writer Maureen Scott Harris, to Assessore Paolo Mazzini, representative of Siena Municipality (Comune di Siena) along with Professor Anna Carli and Professor Tristaino, respectively President and Director of "Istituto Superiore di Studi Musicali," who have made it possible for CanaDiana to use larger, prestigious spaces for two important events, thus allowing our lecturing visitors to address a larger public. And, as usual, we thank Luca Trabalzini for his technical support to our initiatives and for his advice.

Aside from its own promotion of Canadian personalities, or Canadian Studies scholars, our association has carried out its tasks in other ways - through its members' personal commitments in

events devised by others in Italy or abroad, through publications, and by keeping alive our Translation Workshop. Here are some examples:

- in March 2016 Alessandra Bordini made CanaDiana's name travel to Vancouver at the Italian Cultural Centre where she presented her Italian version of Maureen Scott-Harris' *Drowning Lessons* and interviewed the author, while in September I was invited to participate in the 2016 International Literary Festival in Mantova, to talk with Jane Urquhart about her poetry collections, and in August Fabrizio Ghilardi met and interviewed in Pisa Lucien Dorotea, former Quebec Delegate in Rome.

- as to CanaDiana's 2016 publications there are the following:

Alessandra Bordini (editor). *Sussurri dall'acqua*. Borgomanero: Ladolfi Editore, 2016.

Fabrizio Ghilardi. *L'identità occidentale: crisi e prospettive di trasformazione*. Pisa: ETS

Laura Ferri. "An Interview with Rosemary Sullivan, after Her Writing *Stalin's Daughter*." [online] ISSN 2499-5975: *Il Tolomeo*, Vol.17, 2016; Laura Ferri. "The Food of Memory- Mary Melfi's Conversations with Her Mother." Toronto: Italian Canadiana, vol.XXIX (2012-2015), 2016; Laura Ferri. "How Al Purdy Travelled to Tuscany, Lending His Poetry to Siena. Hamilton Arts and Letters: http://samizdatpress.typepad.com/hal_magazine_issue_nine1/how-al-purdy-travelled-to-tuscany-by-laura-ferri-1.html; Rosemary Sullivan. *The Guthrie Road - Una Storia Irlandese*. Prefazione di Dacia Maraini. Traduzione di Laura Ferri. Siena: Equinozi, 2016.

Meanwhile, our Translation Workshop has progressed with the work assigned by Laura Failli to her students, who have translated three of Jon Redfern's stories: "The Story of My Life," "Her Story," "Loose Ends."

And to finish off with an achievement we can happily boast, I would like to mention the coming into being of the "Writer/Scholar Retreat" project, first proposed by Janice K. Keefer for Toronto and actually initiated in Siena by Moira Mini and Andrea Borracelli in November when Prof. Yves Frenette was hosted at their place for 10 days.

All in all, our mandate to promote Canadian culture seems to have been observed even this past year.

For 2017, we count on your proposals, availability to finalize them and the payment of membership fees.

In the meantime, while waiting for your contribution of ideas and time, we welcome with enthusiasm Prof. Caterina Ricciardi's intention to share with us her expertise of intercultural studies and to come to Siena to present Margaret Atwood's retelling of Shakespeare's *The Tempest* in her recent *Hag-Seed*.

Enjoy 2017!

Laura Ferri