

## Dante Alighieri Society in Hong Kong

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THIS IS A  
MONTHLY  
NEWSLETTER  
FROM DANTE  
ALIGHIERI  
SOCIETY IN  
HONG KONG

DANTE  
ALIGHIERI  
SOCIETY IS AN  
ITALIAN  
CULTURAL  
SOCIETY THAT  
PROMOTES THE  
ITALIAN  
LANGUAGE  
STUDIES AND  
CULTURE  
THROUGHOUT  
THE WORLD.  
WE PROVIDE  
ITALIAN  
COURSES FROM  
BEGINNER TO  
ADVANCED  
LEVELS TO  
ADULTS AND  
CHILDREN.  
TO SUIT YOUR  
EXACT NEEDS,  
WE CAN ORGAN-  
IZE PRIVATE  
ONE-ON-ONE OR  
SMALL GROUP  
LESSONS AND  
OUR TEACHERS  
CAN ALSO TEACH  
IN YOUR COM-  
PANY AND TAI-



**G**li 21 e il 23 febbraio la Dante Alighieri di Hong Kong e la SICIS, the art Mosaic Factory, hanno collaborato alla realizzazione di due interessanti eventi. Il primo, tenutosi il 21 febbraio è stato il consueto appuntamento mensile "Una serata Italiana con..." che ha visto l'Area Manager Emanuele Travagliati, come nostro gradito ospite. L'argomento dell'incontro è stato il mosaico italiano, tra storia, arte e tradizione. Nel suo interessante intervento il Dott. Travagliati ci ha guidati attraverso una panoramica storica, ma anche artistica del mosaico italiano dalle origini ai giorni nostri.



(Left) Angelo Paratico, Emanuele Travagliati and Elisa Messina

Abbiamo ripercorso da nord a sud i luoghi chiave dell'arte del mosaico italiano e le origini legate alla tradizione greca e romana. Sponsor della serata sono stati Buonissimo per il cibo e Amoroso per il vino.

Il secondo evento tenutosi il 23 febbraio, sempre presso lo splendido showroom della SICIS, è stato in collaborazione con il Polytechnic University e l'associazione studentesca AIESEC, in occasione del "Sabato Internazionale". Più di 40 studenti hanno assistito alla presentazione fatta dalle insegnanti della Dante, che hanno scelto di guidare gli studenti in un ideale "Viaggio in Italia" attraverso 3 regioni italiane da nord a sud: Piemonte, Emilia Romagna e Campania. Anche in questa occasione il Dott. Travagliati ha fatto una breve introduzione sul mosaico italiano. Dopo la presentazione studenti e staff della Dante si sono ritrovati per una cena tutta italiana alla pizzeria Jacomax. Il menu, tra

pizza, pasta e gelato (tutto rigorosamente italiano e fatto in casa!) è stato molto gradito dagli studenti, che provenivano sia da Hong Kong, ma anche da altri Paesi come Turchia, Polonia e Mauritius, hanno anche alla fine provato a preparare una pizza sotto la guida del pizzaiolo. L'esperimento è riuscito con ottimi risultati! ☀



Dinner at Pizzeria Jacomax with AIESEC members

### News from SICIS

Our friends from SICIS are looking for a "Senior Sales Manager" with experience in contract, market and projects. Background in Architecture and design is considered a plus.

Please send your CV to [emanuele.sicisHK@sicis.com](mailto:emanuele.sicisHK@sicis.com)



# A Great Movie with Italian Connections



By Angelo Paratico\*

This film is a historical drama, first released in 2012. It is also shown here in Hong Kong's cinemas, after receiving two Oscars in Hollywood: for best actor and best production design. Apparently this was a great success for Spielberg but it was perhaps below his expectations, even if the costumes and the acting by Daniel Day-Lewis (Lincoln) were indeed superb. About historical accuracy opinions are mixed but, generally speaking, there is a consensus that Spielberg tried his best to stick to facts.

The story around which the movie revolves is about the struggle put up by Abraham Lincoln to have the XIII amendment enshrined into the American Constitution, to outlaw slavery and involuntary servitude. It was adopted by the US Senate on December 6, 1865. This is a very 'American' movie destined mostly, I believe, for home consumption. In fact slavery was abolished earlier in Europe and in the US such blemish on their honor was cancelled a bit too late, and only after a horrible war.

#### Italian Connections

As a matter of fact the first Country to abolish the slave tarde was Venice, under Doge Pietro IV Candiano. This happened in June 960. Nine hundred years before Lincoln and, by sheer coincidence, the twentieth Doge of the Venetian Republic suffered a fate similar to that of the 16th President of the United States. Pietro IV and his son were murdered near San Marco Square and their bodies thrown into a slaughterhouse. Later they were picked up and buried in Sant'Ilario Church.

At the beginning of the movie the spectators see a color map showing a Country, the US, split in two by the warring factions. This map is in fact Italian, as it can be clearly seen by the legend put on its left side. Probably Spielberg could not find an old map as detailed as that but made in the US. Another connection, unknown to the general public, is the fact that Abraham Lincoln asked general Giuseppe Garibaldi to take command of the Northern Forces at the beginning of the war, but his offer was turned down because somehow he

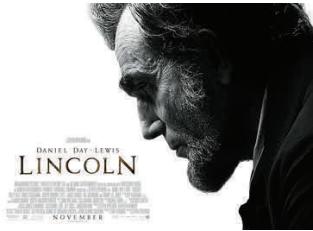
*He stumbled across the faded blue postcard, from Garibaldi to King Victor Emmanuel II telling the king of the offer, last week while rummaging in 90 boxes of material donated by Italy's exiled royal family.*

*Garibaldi caught the world's imagination in 1860 after invading Sicily with 1,000 lightly armed redshirts. They defeated 12,000 Neapolitan troops, took the island and, determined to unify the Italian peninsula, invaded the mainland. They occupied Naples and unleashed a wave of support.*

*According to Mr Petacco, the rebel, who in the 1850s had led an army in Uruguay and travelled through the US, was also a mason. The international masonic lodge successfully lobbied for him to be granted American citizenship.*

*Garibaldi was ready to accept Lincoln's 1862 offer but on one condition, said Mr Petacco: that the war's objective be declared as the abolition of slavery. But at that stage Lincoln was unwilling to make such a statement lest he worsen an agricultural crisis.*

*"Later they offered Garibaldi the command of one unit, rather than the whole army, but at that point it was too late and he had gone on to do other things," Mr Petacco said. "In Italy we always knew, but there was always a lot of scepticism in America. Now we know for sure."*

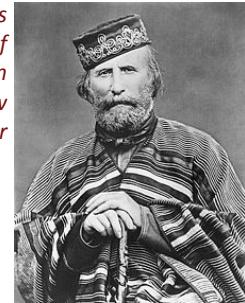


was unable to offer Garibaldi the guarantee he had requested.

I copy below an article published by The Guardian on 8 February 2000.

*"A frayed postcard in a Turin archive has revealed one of the most audacious gambles of the American civil war. Abraham Lincoln offered the command of the northern forces to Giuseppe Garibaldi, unifier of Italy and terror of the Pope. The US president, his forces hammered by the Confederate army, turned in desperation to Garibaldi, spawning one of the great what ifs of history.*

*Rumours of Lincoln's offer have circulated for a century and been denied by American scholars, but the document proved it was no myth, said Arrigo Petacco, a historian.*



\*His blog <http://beyondthirty-nine.com/lincoln-a-movie-by-steven-spielberg-with-italian-implications/>

We'd like to share with you this article, "**Linguist discovers new papal pickle**", published in the **South China Morning Post** print edition on 10 March 2013. <http://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/article/1187369/linguist-discovers-new-papal-pickle>

Mr. John Whelpton has been our Latin teacher since almost two years now!

His new class "**Latin Course for Adult Beginner I**" will start on **9 April 2013 from 19:00 to 21:00**.

If you are interested in joining his Latin Course, please go to : <http://www.ladante.cc/latin.html>

#### POPE'S RESIGNATION

##### Linguist discovers new papal pickle

John Careyy  
John Careyy

Take Whelpton long to spot the error after being sent an e-mail of the pope's speech in Latin. "Although generally written in very formal Latin, misspellings all the main constructions, as it was posted by the Vatican, it contained some errors," John Whelpton said. "Two were typos and one was a mistake in direct speech by the pope."

Pope Benedict's decision set in motion the process of choosing a new pontiff which will see 115 cardinals—one of them Hong Kong's John Tong Hon—gather in the conclave.

It was Italian Giovanna Chirri's knowledge of Latin that meant she was one of the few reporters to understand the Pope was making a farewell speech, and saw her break the massive news story.

But even she didn't pick up on any mistakes. However, it didn't

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# Una Serata Italiana con...

## Ms. Gabriella Giubilei

### Venice: history, art and traditions

Dante Alighieri Society in Hong Kong is offering a great series of events called "Una Serata Italiana con... (An Italian Night With...") , held once a month as a free admission event. This represents a great opportunity for members, students and all interested friends to meet famous and fascinating Italians from different walks of life, to listen and speak in Italian and to meet other students or members of our ever expanding Society.

Our Fourth guest is **Gabriella Giubilei** who was born in Venice and has a "Marco Polo" attitude to life that plainly translates in TRAVELLING! She travelled extensively all over the world with a particular fondness for Asia and especially for China. She will reveal to us the secrets of her marvelous and fascinating home town, Venice, through history, amazing art and the renowned culture and tradition.

**Event: An Italian Night with Gabriella Giubilei**

**Date: Friday, 15 March 2013**

**Time: 7:00 – 8:30 pm**

**Venue: Dante Alighieri Society, Unit A&B, 4/F Kiu Yin Commercial Building, 361-363 Lockhart Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong**

For registration, please click: [http://www.ladante.cc/event\\_registration.html](http://www.ladante.cc/event_registration.html).



## Per migliorare il vostro italiano!

Molti di voi si chiedono sempre: "Come posso migliorare il mio italiano fuori dall'aula? Ecco alcuni suggerimenti dai nostri insegnanti.

Many of you might always wonder: "How can I improve my Italian outside of the language classroom?" Here are some suggestions from our teachers.

### Per imparare online sulla cucina e i vini italiani:

[www.giallozafferano.it](http://www.giallozafferano.it)  
[www.lacucinaitaliana.it](http://www.lacucinaitaliana.it)  
[www.gamberorosso.it](http://www.gamberorosso.it)  
[www.ilmangelo.it](http://www.ilmangelo.it)  
[www.laprovaldelcuoco.rai.it](http://www.laprovaldelcuoco.rai.it)

### Per ascoltare musica e programmi italiani alla radio:

[www.radio.rai.it](http://www.radio.rai.it)  
[www.radiodeejay.it](http://www.radiodeejay.it)  
[www.radioitalia.it](http://www.radioitalia.it)  
[www.radiomontecarlo.net](http://www.radiomontecarlo.net)  
[www.virginradioitaly.it](http://www.virginradioitaly.it)  
[www.radioclassica.it](http://www.radioclassica.it)  
[www.radiosvizzeraclassica.ch/](http://www.radiosvizzeraclassica.ch/)

## Trova le 32 parole nascoste!

Are you familiar with Italian words??

Find the 32 hidden words!

Solutions: DANTE, VINO, FORMAGGIO, NERO, MICHA, ITALIA, VOCE, CADU, TRAMMISU, ROMA, SOTTO, ROTTO, REMARRE, PAPI, ORI, AGGIOD, AMMICA, RAMMI, TIRA, TE, FORMA, ARIA, OPERA, RISOTTO, PIZZA, PREGO, ZIE, COME, FINESTRA, ACCA, ANCORARISSO.

D	A	N	T	E	V	I	N	O
X	N	C	I	A	O	T	E	I
A	C	O	R	C	C	A	R	G
R	O	M	A	C	E	L	O	G
E	R	E	M	A	M	I	C	A
P	A	P	I	Z	Z	A	K	M
O	R	I	S	O	T	T	O	R
Z	I	E	U	P	R	E	G	O
J	A	R	T	S	E	N	I	F



# Upcoming Italian Language Courses, Cultural Events and Workshops

## Opera Workshops

### **“The three Queens” by Donizetti : “Maria Stuarda”, “Anna Bolena” and “Roberto Devereux”**

Date: Wednesday, 3 April 2013, Time: 19:00 - 21:00  
 Fee: \$200 (\$180 for DA Current Students and Members)  
 Venue: Dante Alighieri Society in Hong Kong

## Una Serata Italiana con...

### **Gabriella Giubilei**

Date: Friday, 15 March 2013, Time: 19:00 - 20:30  
 Venue: Dante Alighieri Society in Hong Kong  
 Free Admission

## Italian Fashion Workshop

### **“Storia della Cravatta Italiana”**

(Italian Tie Workshop) by Angelo Paratico

Date: Thursday, 18 April 2013, Time: 19:00 - 20:30  
 Venue: Dante Alighieri Society in Hong Kong  
 Free Admission

## Art Workshop

### **Art Workshop "Cartoline dall'Italia"**

(Postcards from Italy) by Cristina Lambiase

Date: Friday, 5 April 2013  
 Time: 19:00 - 20:30  
 Venue: Dante Alighieri Society in Hong Kong  
 Free Admission

Registration: [http://www.ladante.cc/event\\_registration.html](http://www.ladante.cc/event_registration.html)

## PLIDA Certificate Examination

Monday, 29 April 2013 : Level B2 and C1 / Monday, 27 May 2013 : Level A1, A2, B1 and C2

## Do you know?

If you join the Dante Alighieri Membership, you'll get valuable benefits in Hong Kong.

We are also expanding our membership campaign in Hong Kong. Recently the freelance hair stylist Yumiko at the Hair Salon KamoN H&S, the restaurant Sangrantino, Sirio Dance Studio Boutique and La Pizzetta joined our partnership and you will also receive the welcome gifts from Pizza Hut.

For more details, please go to [www.ladante.cc/joining\\_dante\\_alighieri.html](http://www.ladante.cc/joining_dante_alighieri.html).

## Dante Alighieri Society in Hong Kong

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