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La Fusta is edited by the graduate students of the Department of Italian at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, and published under the auspices of the Department of Italian.

Manuscripts in English or Italian in all areas of Italian Studies (10-15 pages; double-spaced; Times New Roman; 12 pt; Microsoft Word) must follow the guidelines of the MLA Handbook and be submitted in digital format. All manuscripts and editorial inquiries should be addressed to:

La Fusta
Department of Italian
Rutgers University
84 College Ave
New Brunswick, NJ 08901

Subscription rates: Individuals $10, Student $7, Institutional/Foreign $15. Checks should be made payable to the Italian Graduate Society, Department of Italian, Rutgers University.
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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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