

From the President

Dear members and friends,

It's not every day that you get to hear from someone who has had a near-death and an out-of-body experience. Even though Grazia kept this experience a secret for some fifteen years it marked a turning point in her life. She explained how she travelled the world to find the answers to her questions and how she became more spiritual in her outlook on life. You could have heard a pin drop in the room when Grazia Cini spoke about her very personal and emotional story with us at the November meeting. As part of her presentation, Grazia instructed us how to remove the negative energy from our bodies based on a technique she learnt from Peru. And should there be enough interest in this within the PWA then Grazia would like to offer a one day workshop, possibly in January to further explore energies and how they can be used in one's daily life. Details of this will be available soon.

Unfortunately I was unable to attend Alessandro Musumeci's presentation on information technology. But I have since been told that it was very interesting and his expertise in this field was excellent.

The new PWA Jobseekers Group has started up. Our motto is "together to help each other find a job in Rome". Anne-Gael Chapuis is the instigator of this PWA sub-group and she would love to hear from you. For further details, contact her on 320 1148337.

Member Edith Nicoletti has proposed another new initiative for the PWA. She was attracted to this association because of its "internationality". To further encourage an intercultural exchange she would like to see international dinners included in our social events. These could be in restaurants, in people's homes or in embassies. Are you interested? Then let us know! We would like to have the first dinner in February. And then we can decide as a group if we would like to have the "PWA International Dinners" every month or every two months. If you have any ideas, then please don't hesitate to communicate them with us.

Social Events Director, Carol Markino has been responsible for organising tonight's Holiday Party. Thank you, Carol for your time that you put into this event.

In January we will be hearing from Felice Vinci. He offers a key to open many doors that allow us to consider the age-old question of the Indo-European Diaspora and the origin of the Greek civilization from a new perspective. He will share his compelling evidence that the events of Homer's Iliad and Odyssey took place in the Baltic and not the Mediterranean. Read more on page 3. The Winter Workshop will be held in Italian. See the back page for further details.

On behalf of the board of directors and myself we wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. With warmest regards,

Wendy Aulsebrook

PWA ANNOUNCEMENTS

The position of
Newsletter Editor
is vacant.

HAVE NEWS?

Advertising is free for all
PWA members.

**NEXT NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE IS
January 11**

PWA MEETINGS

2005

Dec 14: Festive Party

2006

Jan 18: Italian arts &
literature

Feb 15: International
politics

Mar 8: International
Women's Day

Mar 22: Achieving
work/family/
life balance

Apr 19: World trade
trends

May 17: Women's health

Jun 21: Final Gathering
Cocktail Party

Winter Workshop:

Sat 21st January

Olive Oil Tasting

**PWA International
Dinners...** starting in
February

December Member Profile

This month we hear from American PWA member Loretta Dusini

Loretta M. Dusini is the Local Employment Advisor for the Strategic Networking Assistance Program at the U.S. Embassy to Italy in Rome. Her role is to assist the spouses of the U.S. diplomats posted to Italy in finding employment on the local economy. She also works with the Consulates in Milan, Florence and Naples.

Loretta has opened the new SNAP office in September of this year. This is a new initiative of the U.S. Department of State and is currently in 26 countries around the world. The first SNAP office opened in 2003 with Rome and the Hague as the newest additions. The role of the SNAP advisor is to network in the local business community to build a database of potential employers and to facilitate introductions between the spouses and employers. She also provides one-on-one career counseling, briefings on cultural issues in the workplace and resume writing appropriate to the local culture to the spouses seeking employment.

Loretta Dusini is from New York and holds a B.A. in International Business. She has been living in Rome for the past six years. Loretta previously worked at the U.S. Embassy to the Holy See first as Assistant to the Deputy Chief of Mission then as Special Assistant to Ambassador Jim Nicholson up until July 2005.

Looking for a job?
Join the "New" PWA Jobseekers Group
Learn the essential skills

Membership News

A warm welcome to our new members:

- ✍ Magdalena Blum
- ✍ Luisa Danon
- ✍ Bazega Saleheen
- ✍ Rhonda Walker
- ✍ Anne Woodall

Welcome back to our renewing members:

- ✍ Martina Cecchia
- ✍ Marilena Fiocchi
- ✍ Carol Markino
- ✍ Claire Nelson

About Next Month's Meeting

"Homer in the Baltic" **By Felice Vinci**

Felice Vinci is a nuclear engineer with an extensive background in Latin and Greek studies, who has been researching his theory on the northern origin of Greek mythology since 1992.

PWA's Winter Workshop

Olive Oil Tasting **By Donne dell' Olio**

A national association of women olive oil producers founded in 2000

Saturday 21st January, 2006
17.00 – 19.00

Restaurant 'Settembrini'

Via L. Settembrini, 25

(In Prati, just behind the Rai Building)

While tasting we will be explained the qualities and characteristics of olive oil. Then we will be served an aperitif of wines and hors d'oeuvres.

Book early, as it is limited to 24 people!

Members 6.00 Euro and

Non-members 12.00 Euro

ONLY advance sales of tickets. Available at the December holiday party and at the latest, the PWA January meeting.

Contact Wendy Aulsebrook
on 338 7207870

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Web Site: **www.pwarome.org**

"HOMER IN THE BALTIC"

By (Author) Felice Vinci

The real scene of the Iliad and the Odyssey can be identified not in the Mediterranean Sea, where it proves to be weakened by many incongruities, but in the north of Europe. The sagas that gave rise to the two poems came from the Baltic regions, where the Bronze Age flourished in the 2nd millennium B.C. and many Homeric places, such as Ithaca and Troy, can still be identified. The blond seafarers who founded the Mycenaean civilization in the 16th century B.C. brought these tales from Scandinavia to Greece after the end of the "post-glacial climatic optimum." Then they rebuilt their original world, where the Trojan War and many other mythological events had taken place, in the Mediterranean; through many generations the memory of the heroic age and the feats performed by their ancestors in their lost homeland was preserved, and handed down to the following ages.

Actually, there is a lot of pieces of evidence that the Homeric geography (as well as climatology and other phenomena) perfectly tallies with the Baltic-Scandinavian environment. On the contrary, the world of the Iliad and Odyssey does not square at all with the Mediterranean set (which was well known to the ancient Greek scholars, such as Strabo). Thus it is very likely that it refers to the lost original Northern homeland of the Achaeans, who transplanted their ancient sagas into the Mediterranean when they settled there and founded the Mycenaean civilization in XVI Century BC. In a word, both the Homeric poems and the whole Greek mythology would be the memory of feats and legends that took place during the Early Bronze Age in Northern Europe, before the Achaeans moved to the Aegean area. Afterwards they orally transmitted those feats from generation to generation until the VIII Century BC, when the alphabetical writing began in Greece. Here is the thesis expounded in my book "Homer in the Baltic. An Essay on Homeric Geography" (Palombi Publishers, 4th edition Rome 200e), which is introduced by Prof. Rosa Calzecchi Onesti, a famous scholar and translator of the Iliad and Odyssey into Italian.

I presented, upon invitation, the theory expounded in my book on the occasion of the International Conference held by the Simon Fraser University of Vancouver, Canada, in April 2002. The report caused a sensation and aroused a lot of interest. Moreover, I presented my theory at the University of Pavia, Italy, on four occasions. Last April 2005, I lectured twice on this topic at the University of Rome, Dept. of Geography, where my book was adopted as a text on which students are examined.

Positive reviews were recently published on the Bulletin of the Italian Geographic Society (an Academic journal here in Italy), on the Danish literary journal Klassikerforeningens Meddelelser, and on the German review PM Magazin.

A 20 page abstract was published on the Journal of Finnish Studies, Volume 6, Numbers 1 & 2, August & December 2002 (University of Toronto). Moreover, "Homer in the Baltic" has been recently published in Russia. Its Russian translation was introduced and edited by the Prof. Tatyana Devyatkina, who has the chair of Classical Philology at the University of Saransk. Upon invitation, I presented the Russian edition at the Academy of Sciences of St Petersburg last December 8, 2004.

My book was published in USA in December 2005, with the title "The Baltic Origins of Homer's Epic Tales" as one can see in the website <http://www.innertraditions.com/Product.jmdx?action=displayDetail&id=2068>

Here are some comments from American scholars: "It is hard to overstate the impact, both scholarly and imaginative, to be expected from dissemination of Vinci's compellingly argued thesis about the Baltic origins of Homeric epic. Scholars will be rethinking Indo-European studies from the ground up. And readers of Homeric epic will enter into fresh realms of delight as they re-imagine the world in which its heroes first breathed and moved" (William Mullen, Bard College, NY);

"This book poses so many intelligent and pertinent questions and offers so many brilliant solutions to various problems contained in the Homeric epic that it would truly be a pity if it passed unnoticed" (Leszek Wysocki, McGill University);

"Felice Vinci has done what was considered an almost impossibility. He has opened up a new front in the battle lines of the Homeric question (...)

After reading Vinci's Homer in the Baltic, one is irresistably tempted to say "yes" to the origins of the Greek peoples in Scandinavia" (Victor DeMattei, an United States historian and scholar specializing in Balkan civilization and culture);

"Your essay presents a remarkably compelling thesis which is very well researched and documented (...) Your thesis is, to say the least, both fascinating and revolutionary in terms of accepted lore" (Thomas Wyman, Stanford University);

"Homer in the Baltic is a rare example of a work that turns received notions upside-down. Vinci has done so with such thoroughness that, if one only credits half his examples, one is compelled to accept his thesis" (Joscelyn Godwin, Colgate University) "I find it powerful, methodical, important, and convincing" (Alfred de Grazia, Princeton).

Title of the Italian edition: "Omero nel Baltico"

English edition: "The Baltic Origins of Homer's Epic Tales," Publisher: Inner Traditions



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Florally yours,
Debra

**La Domenica dell'Orso
Antiques & Artisan Craft Market
Sunday 18th December
Via dell'Orso (near Piazza
Navona)**

Look Your Best for the Holidays!

**Permanent Makeup
brows eyeliner lips**

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many references + before & after photos
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15 Euro discount to PWA members

**Looking for a patient and
caring dentist?**

Wendy recommends PWA
member **Dott.ssa Ine
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Fondazione Adkins Chiti Donne in Musica

Presenta
Contro Canto

Natale in Musica 2005

18th December **Chiesa di Santa Dorotea** in Trastevere, 21.00



www.donneinmusica.org

Wisdom for the New Year

Extracts from 'A Guide for the Advanced Soul'

By Susan Hayward

It is important
from time to time
to slow down,
to go away by yourself,
and simply
Be.

Eileen Caddy, The Dawn of Change

Gratitude
helps you to grow and expand;
gratitude brings joy
and laughter into your lives
and into the lives of all those
around you.

Eileen Caddy, The Dawn of Change

**Cycling Holidays
For English-speakers**

✉ **Get inside Italian cycling:** with years of living and cycling in Italy, we ride with you to help you get the most out of your holiday, looking after the non-cyclists too. We are taking English-speaking cyclists to Italian cycling events

✉ **7-day 'Giro of Sardinia':** stage race or cycle tour in the mornings, relax by the turquoise sea in the afternoons.
April 2006

✉ **Gran Fondo** Marco Pantani and Fausto Coppi: in the same week, race on the climbs that made them famous.
Around the races, enjoy the Italian Alps. June/July 2006

Anne McGlone & Peter Herold

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