

# **UCLA**

## **Carte Italiane**

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIRST  
UCLA INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDENT CONFERENCE  
ON ITALIAN CULTURE  
Los Angeles, April 26–27, 1990

Edited by the Editorial Board of *Carte Italiane*, 1991–92

**Directors of the Conference:**

Andrea Baldi and Tommaso Raso

**Organizing Committee:**

Cristina Della Coletta and Barbara Zecchi-Monl on (Vice-Directors),  
Michael D'Andrea and Rosanna Ferraro

The First Interdisciplinary Student Conference on Italian Culture has been organized by *Carte Italiane*, the Graduate Student Journal of the Italian Department at UCLA.

When we decided to plan this conference, we intended to create a program which would address a need that we, as well as other students on campus, felt strongly about: namely to have a multifarious and dynamic forum, in which intense interaction would allow students, particularly graduate students, to exchange their ideas and intellectual accomplishments. Our goal was to make *Carte Italiane* something more than a vehicle apt for the circulation of selected papers among a narrow circle of readers. We felt it was now necessary to embrace a wider and more diverse audience.

We wanted to transcend, at least for a couple of days, what we feel can at times be a structural limitation of the University system: the isolation of departments in their own specific areas of interest. It is for this reason that we conceived an interdisciplinary conference, so that we

could offer the widest possible array of methodologies and perspectives within the field of Italian studies and culture.

We also wanted to gather students from various universities, not only from the U.S. but also from Canada, so that we could encourage a more interesting exchange. Therefore, beyond the diverse thematic approaches to Italian culture, brought about by the very nature of the initiative, there would also be a major impact at various levels among students, since different universities would offer distinct cultural and academic environments.

Determined to reach our goals, we tried, with the combined efforts and hard work of Cristina Della Coletta, Barbara Zecchi (Vice-Directors), Michael D'Andrea, and Rosanna Ferraro, to take advantage of the services that UCLA and the Campus Programs Committee offer to organizations like *Carte Italiane*. Notwithstanding the help of the people who assisted this project, we had to fight against deadlines and to cut some red tape in order to achieve our purpose. But we are now particularly pleased for having made the event possible, and for giving the opportunity to a wide range of graduate students who came from various schools and with different backgrounds (from Italian Literature to Cinema, from Political Science to Art History, from History to Comparative Literature) to present their work at our conference.

Thus we accomplished at least our primary purpose: in fact we feel that in the realm of graduate studies there are many serious and promising students who would deserve a better chance to introduce themselves and their research, and most importantly, to acquire vital academic experience. The publication of the Proceedings of the Conference will attest the encouraging success of such an attempt. In spite of some organizational inconveniences we had to overcome—due to time limitations and our lack of experience—, we believe in the inner value of this idea, and the large audience who attended the conference represents by itself a great reward. We hope that our initiative will meet your expectations and that other departments and universities will soon organize student conferences with the same spirit of open communication.

We would now like to thank, on behalf of all the organizers, the Campus Program Committee which financed the conference, the direc-

tor of the Italian Cultural Institute of Los Angeles who kindly offered a reception, and the chairmen and directors of the departments who joined the initiative.

A special thank goes to Prof. Geoffrey Symcox from the History Department, UCLA, for agreeing to commence the presentations with a speech on “The City as Theater: Public Ceremonies in Baroque Turin (1650 to 1750)”. Finally we are grateful to Prof. Edward Tuttle, chairman of the Italian Department at UCLA, for his consistent availability and support.

*Andrea Baldi and Tommaso Raso,  
Directors of the Conference*