

July 28th, 1985

Der Tagesspiegel

Grammar class, then to the Etruscan Necropolis!

Italian language all day long Language lessons and cultural programme

The course began with an evening meal. The Italian teachers had brought along their friends and we all went into the country stopping off first in a typical small town in the Po plain and then going on to a tavern (osteria) out in the middle of the countryside somewhere. There were all the delicious Emilia Romagna specialities washed down by a dry Lambrusco, not to be confused with the drink of the same name sold here, where we live, in two litres bottles. One particular phrase an Italian used to ask for onions (exquisite onions in oil may I add) gave me encouragement: "mi passa le cipolle?" (can you give me the onions, please?);

I didn't yet know that particular construction but understood what was being asked for, and later on I came upon it in one of my lessons. (...) On the first day of lessons I was desperate, on the second I couldn't wait to be able to speak my own language, but when on the third day I finally had the chance, I had been invited to some Germans' house, I felt like someone on a weight-watchers diet who has at long last got hold of a pork shank only to bask off in terror at the sheer folly of eating it. Only I couldn't throw my pork shank away because I had already accepted the invitation. (...)

Wolfgang Lehmann

September 1986

Cosmopolitan

From a great variety of stimuli there comes the feeling of the language

A short summary of an original programme of courses for foreigners who wish to learn much more than simply the Italian language: "When does it thunder in Bologna?" (conference on the climate in the Po plain); "How do you go man

in Bologna?" (meeting with psychiatrists); "How do you get happily drunk in Bologna?" (tour of Vecchia Romagna Buton distillery and visits, of course extended!, to the many taverns of the city); "How do you grow flowers in Bologna?"

(excursion to the ecological park of Villa Ghigi); "How do you procreate in Bologna?" (reflections on demographic development); "How do you fall in love with Bologna?" (talks with people in Piazza Maggiore on Sunday mornings); "Where have all the fire-flies/prostitutes flown/gone?" (conversation with the representatives of the Prostitutes' Union).

(...) There are also, of course, the hours for classes; you can learn grammar and conversation, but in a particular way for example through acting, script reading or newspaper reading. On the directors' chair sit, among others, some professors from the University of Bologna. (...)

Marlet Shaake

April 11th, 1987

Frankfurter Rundschau

Travel and Recreation

Study-holidays at the Centro di Cultura Italiana

Those who turn off the Via Aurelia onto the Via Maremma leave behind bright green meadows with a hem of high pine-trees bordering the coast, to enter in a hilly country-side with scrubs of broom and darnel, vineyards and plantations of olive-trees.

Tuscany by the sea, the "Maremma", has two faces: the luxuriant plain along the sea, drained marsh around the mouths of the many rivers, and the airy, undulated terraces on the hills, where small towns and sporadic farms are situated.

(...) There (...) a language school has its seat, the Centro di Cultura Italiana. Originally established in Bologna (...), the C.C.I. offers now also a widely spread programme in the idyllic

setting of nature (...). Walks (...), excursions to the historical sights in the surrounding region and of course to the famous hot springs of Saturnia are included. Who is more interested in culture may for instance go and attend to conferences held by historians or to poetry-readings presenting regional authors.

The lovers of Tuscan cuisine also should find themselves satisfied (...). (...) In coordination with the major (...) the participants of the courses have the opportunity to become familiar with life and history of the area and to apply their acquired knowledge of the language. (...)

Michaela Wunderle

5. Press Reviews

• Frankfurter Rundschau, 9/3/1985

(...) Whoever wants to really study Italian and at the same time get to know the country and its people will find the C.C.I.C. the perfect place to do it. As well as the lessons themselves there is also a wide variety of meetings, discussions, visits and conferences. A day at Poppi might well go like this: lessons in the morning in the high-ceilinged rooms of a building provided by the town council in groups of not more than 8/10 participants. The three young teachers, who also happen to speak German, personally take care of the students and are available in the afternoon for excursions to see Etruscan tombs, old Roman churches or to visit another castle out towards a nearby village; or else a trip is organized to the Camaldoli monastery, hidden away in a pine forest, once under Lorenzo il Magnifico, a place famous for its humanities studies and which today is renowned for its library and medicinal herbs. (...) After several private concerts, given by some of the School's guests, musicians from Hannover, Berlin and Holland, interest grew and the town offered a church for the improvised concert to which everyone came. Tongues were loosened in the town square afterwards by the rivers of wine that flowed. (...) Michaela Wunderle.

• Der Tagesspiegel, 28/7/1985

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• Die Tageszeitung, 9/5/1984

(...) The Italians build up their language in a much more "effective" (because simpler) way and create in this way the possibility to disguise hypothesis, fantastical thoughts and non-real possibility in a particular language form. The question is whether an adieu to the Italian language is not also an adieu to the thought of possibility and reality.

This question was raised, without obviously being answered, at a linguistics conference in Bologna in April which was organized by a small language school: the C.C.I.C. The symposium was entitled "Babel against Babel. The evolution of the great languages" in collaboration with the German Cultural Institute, the Bologna City Council and the publishers Zanichelli. And lo and behold, on the search for what language will be spoken in the year 2000, one was speaking at great length about the "efficiency" of a language. (...) In their own way the C.C.I.C. teachers express a degree of hope for the future of their language: Anglo-American may well be the language of the future, but they teach the Italian cultural language. And with dedication. Sometimes the teaching lasts only one week and is individual. They try to get over, through their courses, what actually constitutes a language: its social-cultural and socio-artistic context. (...) Andreas Rostek.