



NEWSLETTER

The Risorgimento and burial in the cemetery



1861 > 2011 > >

150° anniversario Unità d'Italia

This year has seen many celebrations of the 150th anniversary of Italy's unification, the goal of the Risorgimento movement. In Rome, not finally seized from Papal control until 1870, monuments associated with Giuseppe Garibaldi and other Risorgimento figures have been attracting visitors, as have museums such as the admirable

Museo della repubblica romana e della memoria garibaldina in the Porta San Pancrazio on the Janiculum.

In turn the Cemetery has attracted those searching for graves of Garibaldini who died in battle or who survived and went on to careers in the new Roman republic. Several graves have long been known; but there may be others, as yet unidentified, of soldiers who fought either with Garibaldi or with the Papal forces and their French allies.

Among the Garibaldini whose graves are known are three foreigners who died in action. **Bartolomé Rozat**, a young Swiss from Geneva, was a Captain in the Bersaglieri di Manara when he was wounded in the bitter fighting during the French siege of Rome in 1849. He died three days later. The other two foreigners fell at the battle of Mentana in November 1867 when Garibaldi made another unsuccessful attempt to wrest Rome from Papal control. **John Scholey**, an Englishman aged 36, died from his wounds in the San Onofrio hospital. A few days earlier the 28-year old **Artur Bennj**, described as a Garibaldino journalist from Poland, had also succumbed to his injuries. All three were buried in the Protestant Cemetery.

A visitor to Rome forty years later reported that, because Scholey's concession was not bought in perpetuity, his remains were exhumed in 1902 and transferred to the Cemetery's ossuary. The remains of Rozat suffered the same fate, and both became no longer distinguishable in the communal ossuary. Artur Bennj was luckier. In 1941 his remains were transferred from his grave (Zona 2.15.7) to the newly established Mausoleo Ossario Garibaldino ai Caduti per Roma. This stands on the Janiculum a few hundred metres down the Via Garibaldi from the Porta San Pancrazio. At the same time the Cemetery installed the plaques in memory of all three soldiers that you can see today, placed next to the ossuary along the Aurelian Wall in Zona 2.

Other participants in the Risorgimento who survived its battles found their last resting-place in the Cemetery. **Giovanni Ceccarini**, whose large tomb we have recently restored (see *Newsletter* 15) was a qualified surgeon who fought with Garibaldi in the defence of Rome in 1849. **Luigi Miceli** (1824-1906) joined Garibaldi and became a leader of the Expedition of the Thousand and in the battle for Palermo in 1860. He went on to a political career, becoming in 1878 Minister of Agriculture and later Minister of Industry and Commerce and eventually a Senator. He is buried in the Cemetery alongside his German wife Maria (née Schwarzenberg) who predeceased him in 1898 (Zona 2.18.26).

Finally, as the inscription on his monument (Zona 1.13.15) reveals, **Alessandro Gavazzi** (1809-1899) fought with Garibaldi in the 1849 siege and served as army chaplain with the Expedition of the Thousand in 1860. He had spent the 1850s in exile in Britain and



The tombs of Luigi Miceli and his wife

North America where he preached against priests and Jesuits. After renouncing Catholicism, he founded the Italian Evangelical Church and in Rome located it, quite symbolically, directly across the river from Castel Sant'Angelo in what is now the Ponte Methodist Church.

But did the Protestant Cemetery accept for burial only those aligned with the cause of the Risorgimento? In his evidence in 1940 to the commission for the Mausoleum on the Janiculum, Marcello Piermattei, the Director of the Cemetery, wrote: "Among the many foreigners buried in the Cemetery there figure around 60 names of young men (aged between 20 and 40) who died between 1852 and 1868 of Swiss, Prussian, Dutch and French nationality and who formed part of the Regimento Estero Pontificio or served as Pontifical soldiers or carabinieri. Almost all these bodies were exhumed like Rozat's." In his history of the Cemetery (*All'Ombra della Piramide*, 1995) Wolfgang Krogel cites this letter from the Cemetery's archives and also the annual reports for the 1850s and 1860s of the evangelical church in Rome to the effect that many of those in the service of the Pope during the Risorgimento were protestants. If so, some of those who died in Rome probably remain to be identified among the names recorded on the Zone 2 ossuary (see 'The third benefactor' below).

It is likely that both sides of the struggle for the unification of Italy are represented in the Cemetery's burials during that period. May they all rest in peace.

Nicholas Stanley-Price

WHO THEY WERE...

Richard Henry Dana, Jr. (1815-1882)



RICHARD H. DANA, JR., IN 1842

Richard Henry Dana, Jr. was a Boston aristocrat by birth and lawyer by profession who wrote one of the great works on seafaring, *Two years before the mast*.

He was born in Cambridge, Massachusetts, on 1 August 1815, son of Richard Henry Dana and his wife Ruth Charlotte Smith Dana. The first Dana in Massachusetts had emigrated from England in 1640. Over the next century and a half the family became prosperous and influential landowners.

Dana's grandfather, Francis Dana, was a member of the Continental Congress, a signer of the Articles of Confederation in 1778, and for fifteen years the chief justice of the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts. In succeeding years the family fortunes declined. Dana's father had a promising career as a literary critic and poet, but suffered financial reverses. An uncle fled to Russia to escape creditors.

Dana attended a school run by Ralph Waldo Emerson and enrolled in Harvard College in 1831. Two years later he caught measles, which affected his vision, and treatment with bleeding and emetics left him weak. Hoping that a sea voyage might restore him, in August 1834 Dana sailed as an ordinary seaman on a brig bound for California, via Cape Horn, with a cargo of trade goods.

On the brig he quickly returned to health and learned to climb yards, furl sails, and man the helm in both foul and fair weather. In California, Dana spent months on shore processing cattle hides, the cargo for the return voyage. The ship successfully rounded Cape Horn in winter and reached Boston. Dana soon graduated from Harvard, studied law, and opened his own law office. He recounted his two years as a seaman on "the most glorious moving object in the world" in *Two years before the mast*, which was published in 1840 and became an immediate success.

On shipboard Dana had witnessed the unjustified, brutal flogging of a sailor. In 1841 he published *The seaman's friend*, which became a standard work on sailors' rights and duties. The same year he married Sarah Watson, a young woman from Hartford.

After some years Dana's law practice became profitable. Before the Civil War he played a significant role in the antislavery movement, helping to found the Free Soil party. In 1859, with heightened American interest in acquiring Cuba from Spain, Dana visited the island and thereafter published *To Cuba and back*, which went through twelve editions. Just as the Civil War began in 1861, President Lincoln named him United States Attorney for Massachusetts. Dana's most notable achievement in that post was to uphold the Union's right to seize Confederate merchant as well as naval vessels. He also obtained the conviction of several dozen merchant captains who had mistreated sailors.

Dana served two terms in the Massachusetts legislature but failed to be elected to the U.S. Congress. In 1876 President U.S. Grant named him minister to the United Kingdom but Dana earlier had been charged with plagiarism when revising a digest of international law, and this led to the defeat of his nomination in the Senate. In 1877 he became counsel for the United States in a major dispute over Canadian fisheries. The decision of the arbitrators was favourable to Canada and a further disappointment to Dana.

In 1878 Dana and his wife moved to Paris, and in early 1881 to Rome. They rented an apartment in Via Sistina and met with old friends, including the sculptor William Wetmore Story and the writer James Russell Lowell. After summering at Abetone in Tuscany, Dana began a long-planned work on international law and went on solitary rambles in the Roman Campagna, often returning after dark despite friends' warnings that this might endanger his health. It was, however, after riding home in winter cold from the church of St. Paul's inside the Walls that he came down with pneumonia. He died on January 6, 1882 and was buried in the Cemetery (Zona 1.10.38).

Sarah Watson Dana returned to America and died in Cambridge in 1907. Richard Henry Dana III (1851-1931), one of their six children, married a daughter of the poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and became a successful Boston lawyer.

Contributed by Peter Bridges, minister of the American embassy at Rome in 1981-1984 and ambassador to Somalia, 1984-1986. For further information, see:

Adams, C.F. *Richard Henry Dana, a biography*. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin and Company, 1890, and Shapiro, S. *Richard Henry Dana, Jr.*, East Lansing: Michigan State University Press, 1961.



The third benefactor: David Randall-MacIver

In the Parte Antica three simple carved stones record past benefactors of the Cemetery ('Benemerente' – literally, a well-deserving person). One stone is dedicated to Clare Benedict, American niece of Constance Fenimore Woolson, who in 1961 left a generous legacy; another is to Johan Beck-Friis, Swedish Ambassador who for five years chaired the Cemetery's committee and who wrote the *Guidebook* (see *Newsletter* 6, 2009); and the third is to David Randall-MacIver. The latter was an archaeologist who excavated in Egypt and at Zimbabwe, and taught at the University of Pennsylvania before moving here to work on early Rome and the Etruscans. He and his wife Joanna are buried in the Zona Vecchia (7.1). Well-known as he was in his field, in what way did he deserve the status of benefactor of the Cemetery?

The answer came to light while compiling the article above about the Risorgimento. It was thanks to a donation made in 1916 by Randall-MacIver that remains deposited in the communal ossuary were no



longer destined to anonymity. The communal ossuary received burials exhumed from graves (as in the case of Scholey described above), but its main purpose was to serve those who could not afford a grave of their own. Piermattei, the director, writes that the donation made it possible to place all bones in zinc containers with a name-tag, so that they could be identified in future if need be. Furthermore it was Randall-MacIver who paid for the seven plaques on the Aurelian wall that record the names of some 600 people whose remains lie in the ossuary. For his concern for ensuring that no burial should remain anonymous in the Cemetery, Randall-MacIver deserves to be considered 'Benemerente' along with the two other benefactors.



Archaeologists Randall-MacIver and Leonard Woolley
(second and first from right) in camp at Anibeh, Egypt, in 1908
(photo: Penn Museum image #35515)



NEWS FROM THE CEMETERY

Farewell to Ambassador Bull and to Catherine Payling

We have reluctantly said farewell to two people who have contributed enormously to the wellbeing of the Cemetery in recent years. H.E. Einar M. Bull as Ambassador of Norway to Italy served as President of the Assembly of Ambassadors from autumn 2008 for an exceptional period of three years. He has always been a constant source of advice and support to the Director and Advisory Committee, and had a strong affection for the Cemetery. We wish him well in his retirement and welcome his successor, H.E. Bjørn Trygva Grydland, as the new President.



Ambassador Bull speaking at the Ceccarini ceremony

Catherine Payling, while Curator of the Keats-Shelley Museum with its close links with the Cemetery, took over as honorary treasurer in 2005 when the financial position was extremely precarious. That we are now in a more secure position, with tight controls in place, owes much to her skills as a chartered accountant and financial manager. Our gratitude follows her as she leaves the Museum and Rome for new horizons.

The volunteers complete five years' service

It is only through the dedication of the volunteers that the Cemetery can be open to visitors for 6½ days a week. They also help in numerous other ways, such as guided visits, translation, the Friends database and producing this Newsletter. A big thank you to all of them for making visitors welcome and to Heather Munro for successfully co-ordinating them during the past five years.



The Visitors' Centre

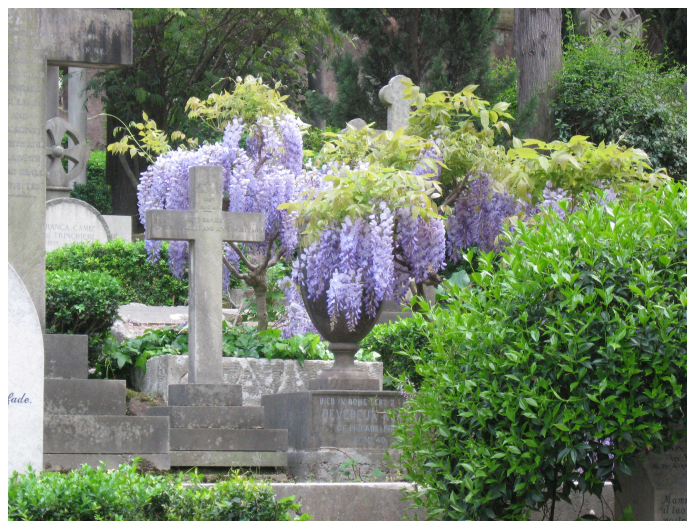
HOW OTHERS SEE THE CEMETERY

The Cemetery remains a place of inspiration for authors. Daisy Hay claims that it was her visit (during her honeymoon, no less) to the graves of Keats and Shelley that stimulated her to finish both her Ph.D and her book *Young Romantics. The Shelleys, Byron and other tangled lives* (Bloomsbury, 2010). The preface opens with an account of her fateful visit which is alluded to again in the final paragraphs where she considers the graves' inscriptions (those for Keats and Severn, Shelley and Trelawny), in the light of the friendships at the heart of these 'tangled lives'. This is the main theme of her enthralling book which, stressing their interdependent relationships, successfully challenges the popular image of the solitary Romantic poet.

Rome is the 'R' in Sebastian Faulks' novel *A Fool's Alphabet* (Hutchinson, 1992) and Keats' grave again provides the opening scene ("The trees between this modest white grave and the giant pyramid are semi-tropical. It is intensely hot.") before it shifts to the house where he died. Faulks has yet to do so but Steve Burgess, "one of Canada's funniest writers", introduced himself at the Visitors' Centre earlier this year, as the author of *Who killed Mom?* (GreyStone, 2011). Following the death of his mother in Canada, his travels in Europe had brought him to the Cemetery where, fortunately, he left his humour at the entrance-gate:

"There are tight rows of monuments, flowering trees, and stray cats, all well cared for. In the midst of noisy, chaotic Rome, the peace of this stone garden seems almost supernatural. It belies the passion and complexity lying behind a simple stone, the simple tales that make every cemetery a cousin of Spoon River. My mother loved the Spoon River Anthology, Edgar Lee Master's collection of verses recounting life stories from a fictional cemetery. And I know she would have loved this place, with all its implied mysteries."

Tom Rachman's novel *The Imperfectionists* (The Dial Press/Quercus, 2010) has been receiving enthusiastic reviews for its entertaining depiction of the characters who together produce a daily English-language newspaper in Rome. The Cemetery features as the burial-



place of the paper's American founder-owner and as the occasional destination of his grandson when walking his beloved basset hound named Schopenhauer (a practice that would be discouraged in the Cemetery nowadays!).

We would like to include in this column more examples of the Cemetery-in-literature in languages other than English. All submissions welcome!



"So sweet a place"

A beautiful film about the Cemetery with this title can now be viewed on our website on the Friends page and at <http://youtu.be/LYIJmgsOr0o>. It was made in 2007 when the Cemetery was temporarily closed because of a fallen branch. Ira Meistrich, an experienced television producer/editor in the United States, generously agreed to undertake it *pro bono* as part of a fundraising initiative by Chris Huemer. His film captures well the atmosphere of the Cemetery. Strongly recommended.

We are also making the Cemetery better known by speaking at conferences devoted to the care of cemeteries (yes, there are such events!). At an international conference in Paris, we presented a paper on our current policies of management and stone conservation (downloadable at <http://cemeteryrome.it/history/reading.html>). Then in September the Director spoke at the annual meeting in Vienna of the Association of Significant Cemeteries in Europe (ASCE), where the theme was current burial practices in historic cemeteries and future trends. These meetings are helpful for drawing upon others' experiences when doing long-term planning for the Cemetery here in Rome.



The Cemetery seen from Monte Testaccio



HOW TO BECOME A FRIEND

This Newsletter is made possible by the contributions of the Friends of the Cemetery.

The Friends also help fund the care of the trees in the cemetery and the restoration of tombs. Please can you help us by becoming a Friend? You can find a membership form at:

www.cemeteryrome.it

THE NON-CATHOLIC CEMETERY IN ROME

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OPENING HOURS

Monday to Saturday 9:00am - 5:00pm
(last entrance 4.30pm)
Sunday & Public Holidays: 9.00am -1.00pm
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