

Nel decennio **2006-2015**
l'“**Intra-Tent Journal**”,
la rivista trimestrale ufficiale dei Figli del Deserto di tutto il mondo,
ha dedicato spazio alla Tenda Teste Dure, Oasi 258,
nelle seguenti occasioni

Intra-Tent Journal #120, Spring 2006

Sons of the Desert
Tents, 2006 by ITJ Staff
Intra-Tent Journal Subscribers

ITALY

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Intra-Tent Journal #121, Summer 2006

Finely Formulated Machinations
From Europe by Chris Coffey

Another new Tent is formed in Italy. Alessandro Santi from Prato, near Firenze, Italy is the Grand Sheik of the Block-Heads, Oasis #258. Alberto Vangelisti is Vice-Sheik.

Un ricordo della Tenda modenese da Intra-Tent Journal #121, Summer 2006
(il Gran Sceicco di Teste Dure è nella foto qui sotto!)

It's “Ciao” to the Chumps!

by “Hugo the Camel” (Italian Tent “A Chump at Oxford” Official Camel)



Ciao! to all the Sons. My name is Hugo and I'm a camel. Years ago I was sitting, sad and alone, in a small market-place. Nobody wanted me. But one fine day two crazy “Chumps” looked straight into my eyes and decided I should represent all the Tent's “Chumps”! So, I'm the best one to tell you the story of the “A Chump at Oxford” Italian Tent.

The idea to establish a Sons tent in Italy was born in the city of Modena in 1992. Modena is a town located in Northern Italy. It is famous around the world for the sport-car factories (Ferrari, Maserati), balsamic vinegar and because this is the birthplace of tenor Luciano Pavarotti.



1993, in our first dinner meeting. Tiziano, our Grand Sheik had met Dr. McCabe during the Sons fabulous European Convention in Rolduc, Nederland in 1993.

During our meetings which are usually two each year, we start with a couple of absolutely out of tune trumpet blasts. Enzo Zaccarelli is our official, terrible trumpeter! The tent's “Chumps” do a lot of toasts, introducing them with the famous refrain “Good morning to you, good morning dear teacher” sung in *Pardon Us*.

On our first anniversary, the most important Italian movie magazine “*CIAK*” published an interesting article about us. It brought us many new members and officially acquainted all of Italy with our existence. One year later, the mayor of Baricella, a historical town not far from Modena invited us to organize a great event to honor “Stanlio & Ollio”. The event included sessions explaining who Laurel and Hardy were, art competitions about the Boys for children, films shown in the cinemas and the first public pie-fight (more than 1,300 cakes)! This was such an amusing and crazy event, it made us well known throughout the country. From there we traveled throughout Italy organizing events that celebrated Laurel & Hardy including more pie-fights. After the Acquiva Picena's pie-fight we were listed in the Guinness Book of Records in

Finely Formulated Machinations from Europe

By **Chris Coffey**, of Bacon Grabbers 113.

Alessandro Santi, Alberto Vangelisti, and their friends are very enthusiastic about the new tent, the Block-Heads of Italy, Oasis #258. Alberto is president of Cineteca Nazionale Fedic Foundation and vice president of Cineclub Sangiovese; he has a large collection of reels of L&H films that will be shown at the meetings.

Alessandro has been an active member of the A Chump at Oxford tent of Modena (founded by his friend Tiziano Medici) since 1994. With some help from fellow Sons, since 2002 Alessandro has organized an annual three-day Laurel & Hardy Film Festival at the Cineteca di Firenze. Every year in December they enjoy three days of Stan & Babe on the big screen. He also hosts the screenings, entertaining the public with biographical and technical anecdotes.

Sons of the Desert Tents, 2008

by ITJ Staff
Intra-Tent Journal Subscribers

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SON SHINES

Italy's Block-Heads Celebrate

2nd Anniversary

Congratulations to the Block-Heads tent (#258) (Grand Sheik Alessandro Santi) of Prato, Italy on their 2nd Anniversary. They are the second Italian tent and have had two very active years showing Laurel and Hardy around the country. They have a membership of 46 Sons from throughout Italy. They state, "Stan and Babe are forever alive in everybody's heart and we love them."



The Block-Heads of Prato, Italy

Intra-Tent Journal #129, Summer 2008

Finely Formed Machinations from Europe by Chris Coffey

In March, the Italian Block-Heads had the first Italian showing on the big screen of *Wild Poses*, and said "arrivederci" to the audience with the first reel of *The Stolen Jools*, another Italian premiere. They are planning screenings for the convicts at the local prison. As you can imagine they will start with *Pardon Us*. (see story on page 3)

Intra-Tent Journal #130, Fall 2008

Finely Formulated Machinations from Europe

by Chris Coffey

The Block-Heads of Italy have arranged no less than eight screenings for the convicts at their local prison Casa Circondariale La Dogaia, starting with *Pardon Us*!

Can't sleep at night? Want to be bored to sleep? Then read my extended column on the Intra-Tent Journal website, courtesy of the efforts of Ross Owen.

Intra-Tent Journal #134, Fall 2009

Italian Item

A highlight in the history of the Block-Heads Tent (#258) of Prato, Italy, has been the "Stanlio e Ollio in contrano Toto" event organized on March 14th at the Cinema Teatro Borsi. It featured Liliana de Curtis, daughter of the well known Italian comic Toto. A sold-out audience saw *Busy Bodies*, two excerpts from *Atoll K*, and Toto's *La patente*, a short film from a work by Pirandello. GS Alessandro Santi interviewed Liliana about similarities between Toto and Stanlio e Ollio. Toto loved the Boys.

Intra-Tent Journal #137, Summer 2010

Finely Formulated Machinations

from Europe by Chris Coffey

On Saturday March 14th the **Block-Heads #228 of Prato, Italy** hosted a traditional show at **Cinema Borsi in Prato**. The films were all wife-related and restored as usual. GS **Alessandro Santi** introduced *We Faw Down* (1928) with a live score provided by organist **Mr. Meucci** at the keyboard and two Sons reading the title cards in Italian. They then showed the premiere of *On The Loose* (1931) with live dubbing by Sons **Alessandro, Francesca, Mary** and **Simone**. This was the first time it was shown to an Italian audience and an Italian dub doesn't exist. The Grand Sheik described the Boys mis-adventures with women, on and off the screen and answered questions. The final film was *Twice Two* (1932). The laughing continued loudly throughout the film. After the screening, the tent offered a little buffet for the more than one hundred in attendance. (*Editor's note: great work Alessandro!*)

Intra-Tent Journal #140, Spring 2011

FINELY FORMULATED MACHINATIONS FROM EUROPE

by Chris Coffey

Alessandro Santi, Grand Sheik of Block-Heads, Oasis 258, Prato, Italy, reports, "December 22nd, 2010, the last day of school before the Christmas holidays, I showed *Big Business* and *The Fixer-Uppers* on an improvised but efficient big screen at the Collodi Primary school, where I work, all the day long! In fact we had four showings, from 9 to 11 and from 14 to 16 circa, for 20 classes, that is to say more than 400 children from 6 to 11 years of all countries, plus approximately 50 parents and, of course, the teachers. All enjoyed Stan & Babe so much, laughing loudly at Stan & Babe antics. The children themselves read the lines during the screenings of *Big Business*. I talked briefly about the Sons and the Boys and distributed our flyers."

Intra-Tent Journal #141, Summer 2011

Finely Formulated Machinations From Europe

by Chris Coffey

In March, the **Italian Blockheads** had a full house of 160 at their Cinema Borsi. The following week they hosted a photograph and movie poster showing in Prato, and had over 250 visitors in six afternoons and one morning. The Sons involved in the organization of these two events are: Simone Rindi, Alessio Santi, David Ceccarelli, Francesca Noci, Simone e Pasquale Cornacchia and Mary Boi.

Intra-Tent Journal #145, Summer 2012



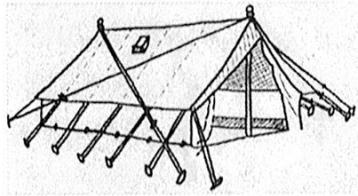
**Son
Shines**

The Block-Heads #258 of Prato, Italy hosted their annual public screening of Stan and Babe films at Cinema Borsi in mid-March 2012. This year the public response was even higher than ever as 180 laughing and clapping fans turned out. They saw *Timbla y Titubea* (an Italian preview), *One Good Turn*, and *Me and My Pal*. For the first time in Italy,

those films were viewed uncut, and restored in their original aspect ratio. Alberto Sordi's voice was used for Ollie and Mauro Zambuto was used for Stan. VS Simone Rindi worked very hard to put on the show. The theme of the gathering was about Italy's economic crisis, *Stanlio e Ollio Crisi e Sorrisi*. (Stan and Ollie crisis and smiles) GS Alessandro Santi introduced and closed the showings and offered the crowd a little buffet. Others who helped were Alessio Davide, Simone C. plus Francesca and Mary who came from other parts of Italy.



Intra-Tent Journal #149, Summer 2013



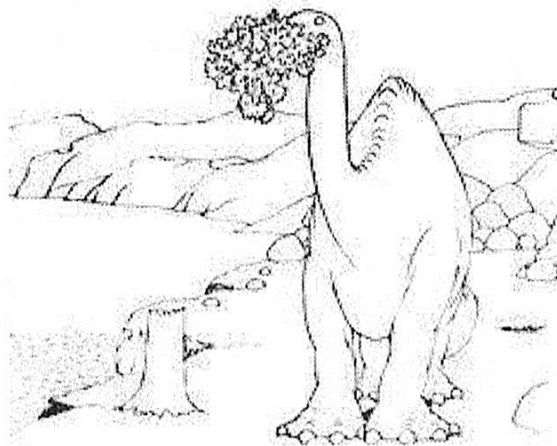
Tent News

The Block-Heads Tent of Prato, Italy

by GS Alessandro Santi

On Saturday March 13th, Lo zoo di Stanlio e Ollio (*Stan and Ollie's Zoo*) was presented in a theatre packed with people of all ages who thoroughly enjoyed the evening.

The program started with the showing of cartoonist Winsor McCay's 1914 film *Gertie the Dinosaur*. I was the Trainer with a tuxedo and a whip, sharing laughs and cheers with the audience. We were honoring *Jacovitti*, one of Italy's finest



cartoonists, on the 90th anniversary of his birth. We then showed Laurel and Hardy's films *Wrong Again* (1929) and the rarely seen in Italy, *Angora Love* (1929). Our final film was *The Chimp* (1929). We carefully chose the films that were restored versions with original titles. We created the sub-titles "live" and explained the frequent use of animals in the Boys' pictures. At the conclusion of the evening we had a buffet and a brief raffle. We then went to a restaurant to celebrate. Thanks to Vice-Sheik Simone Rindl for the tech assistance and Sub Vice Sheik David Ceccarelli for his help and our "Daughters of the Dessert" for the cakes.



La foto davanti al Culver Hotel vede tutti i Figli del Deserto partecipanti alla Laurelandhardywood Convention (Gran Sceicco e gentile signora sono all'estrema destra della foto).

Dal lungo articolo sulla storia dei Figli del Deserto,
in Intra-Tent Journal #156, Spring 2015

Sons Celebrate 50th Anniversary...

The Early History



An exciting location for the Sons of the Desert exists in Italy. Three tents started in the '90's and beyond. The founders are Benedetto Gemma (A Chump at Oxford #165), Alessandro Santi (Block-Heads #258) (*seen right*), and Giancarlo Manfredini (Blotto #306). Tiziano Medici of tent #165 in Italy is seen left at the Laurel and Hardywood Convention in July of 2014. Their enthusiasm is catching!



Intra-Tent Journal #156, Spring 2015

Sons of the Desert Tents, 2015 by ITJ Staff Intra-Tent Journal Subscribers

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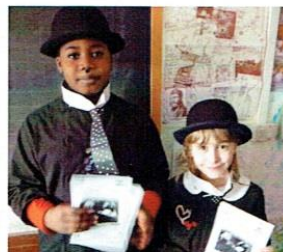
A pagina seguente: molto onore (e molti refusi!!)

Those Block-Heads of Prato, Italy

by Grand Sheik Alessandra Santi

In 2006, 85 years after *Lucky Dog* (1922) was filmed and almost 80 years from when Stan and Babe were paired at the Roach Studios, a new Sons of the Desert tent was founded in Prato, near Firenze, Italy. Men and women of all ages were welcomed. I am the Grand Sheik of the Block-Heads tent, Oasis #258. We have a number of other officers who run the tent including Alessio Santi, Alberto Vangelisti, Francesca Noci, and others. I have been an active member of the Chump At Oxford Tent of Modena (founded by my friend Tiziano Medici) since 1994. I can remember the first time I saw Stan and Babe on TV and over the years I still enjoy the films. With help from fellow Sons from 2002 to 2005 we organized an annual three days of the Laurel and Hardy film festival at the Cineteca di Firenze. It was a gala time with many attendees. We have had almost ten years of great times watching the films and enjoying Sons activities.

From July 1-6, 2014 my wife and I joined the Sons of the Desert Convention in Hollywood, California. It is impossible to describe the enjoyable time we spent together with our pen pals and new Sons. Some were Dan and Adele, along with their Grand Sheik Dave from the Busy Bodies Tent of Minnesota. We shot much film of our visit including the music box steps. We walked the streets where Buster Keaton created some of his silent masterpieces. We will always remember our talk with Lois Laurel, daughter of Stan. We also will remember the barbecue at Pottsville Station and the screening at the Egyptian Theatre in the heart of Hollywood. We came from many countries but are one big family. We will never forget it. Below are some highlights from our meetings.



**Wanted: 35mm/16mm prints
of Laurel and Hardy films
(features and shorts) and
original photos of the Boys' films.
Please contact Jack Delente,
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33 1 43.85.97.99**

