

The English translation of *Italici* is the fruit of a fortunate encounter between the Italian/American Digital Project and that side of Piero Bassetti's multifaceted personality that led to the foundation of Globus et Locus 10 years ago.

A few months ago Bassetti—a renowned entrepreneur, politician and a public intellectual—invited us to the headquarters of Globus et Locus in Milan, after discovering *i-Italy.org* on the Web.

There, we had a rich exchange of opinions on what turned out to be a mission we deeply share: the creation of a virtual network for “Italic encounters.”

He told us that he had been waiting for years to assist in the spontaneous creation “from the bottom” of the first nodes of that network, and singled out *i-Italy.org* as one of them. We were flattered by his appreciation: we were aware that Piero Bassetti had been working for years on the theme of Italicity. We also knew that he approaches it in a provocative way—outside of the classical schemes, relieved from the inflated registers sometimes utilized in institutional discourse, and also from the most common stereotypes.

As editors of *i-Italy*, we are aware that the creation of an authoritative point of encounter, information and communication on the Web for the Italic community is not only possible, but it is a strongly-felt necessity. Together with our bloggers, readers, and on-line community members we have been working at this for over a year in order to lay the first bricks of the kind of *Italy-city* this book proposes. This is why, brief but incisive as it is, it immediately caught our attention. And we are glad to have contributed to its translation in English and to its diffusion in the U.S.

We invite the English native reader—who will find him/herself to be an “Italic” right from the very first pages—to approach this book not as a plea for the revival of some sort of exclusive sense of ethnic belonging, but rather as a sort of textbook for the cosmopolitan Italic citizen of the Third Millennium, one who feels his to be part of a constantly growing network of multiple, intertwined, g-local identities.

From the ‘Preface’ to *Italici* by Letizia Airos Soria



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# Italy-city

## The Internet Generation

*...global, local, or g-local?*

### Round Table

*for the presentation of the book*

## Italici

**An Encounter with Piero Bassetti**

**Wednesday, November 12 - 6 pm**

Casa Italiana Zerilli-Marimò, NYU  
24 West 12th Street, New York

*For Info: editors@i-italy.org*

A new generation of Italians is *migrating* all over the world, again. Some of them are born “abroad.”

Many study, work, and live in the U.S. They engage in art and literature, science, commerce, and politics.

They are young and cosmopolitan, and many will not go back... they are citizens of a global world.

They are the **Internet Generation**. They don't even use the telephone to keep in touch with each other: Skype, Facebook are their tools.

Yet, in some deep, still unexplored sense, they feel Italian. But no easy-made stereotype can catch their soul.

Are they transforming Italy in a ***g-local city***?

PLAZA  
the America



## Italici

### An Encounter with Piero Bassetti

by Paolino Accolla e Niccolò d'Aquino  
(Bordighera Press, 2008)

The Italian/American Digital Project invites you to participate in an open round table

*Participants include:*

**Piero Bassetti**

President, “Globus et Locus”

**Francesco Maria Talò**

Consul General of Italy in New York

**Stefano Albertini**

Director, Casa Italiana Zerilli-Marimò, NYU

**Anthony Julian Tamburri**

Dean, John D. Calandra Italian American Institute,  
Queens College, CUNY

**Teresa Fiore**

California State University Long Beach / NYU

**Fred Gardaphe**

Queens College, CUNY

**Fabio Finotti**

University of Pennsylvania

**Simone Cinotto**

New York University

**Ottorino Cappelli**

Università di Napoli “L’Orientale”  
Project Coordinator, The Italian/American Digital Project

**Niccolò d'Aquino**

Journalist, Corriere della Sera

**Letizia Airos Soria**

Executive Editor, i-Italy.org  
Journalist, America Oggi

About 15 years ago, I coined the word “Italicity” based on the idea of a virtual meeting place, a new kind of piazza, where the 200-250 million people of “Italic” origin throughout the world could meet in a place that transcends formal boundaries and legal barriers. Italicity can be compared to a commonwealth of cultures, experiences, and ideals—a community that seeks to unite all those who have “Italic” roots.

The *Italici* are favored by their large *diaspora*, which is present in every corner of the earth.

But Italian emigration is no longer a humble migration in search of food. Today, the Italic business and cultural community is recognized everywhere and the Internet seems to be the ideal way to link these communities. In this postmodern world, where technology has leveled the dimensions of time and space, the Italic piazza cannot avoid coinciding with the various aspects of the web. The Internet is the best way to reach other people. In fact, the web can both speak to and give voice to a diverse audience by surpassing geographic location as well as national, linguistic, and professional boundaries.

It can be said that there is an Italic piazza (Italy-city) wherever and whenever an Italic enters into relationship with another Italic. While the Italic piazza does not coincide with that of the ideal Renaissance City nor with De Chirico's metaphysical one, the Italic piazza does indeed see, in both, its own cultural ascendancy. *Italici* live by the values that have been distilled and consolidated throughout centuries of *civitas italica*. These values are not just shared and shareable values; they are the springboard for new belongings and additional togetherness that at the moment are not completely imaginable.

The Italic piazza will be the catalyst of future political alchemy.

**Piero Bassetti**