

SOUVENIR CATALOGUE

MAMMA LENA AND DINO GUSTIN PRESENT

THE SMALL MUSEUM OF ITALIANS IN AUSTRALIA

1988 - AUSTRALIA'S BICENTENARY YEAR

PREFACE BY PROF. ZUBRZYCKI

PREFACE

It has been our long-standing ambition to document Italian presence in Australia. What better time to do this than in 1988 - Australia's 200th birthday! A preview of this was given on the 21st July 1984 when at the Fogolar Furlan Club of Sydney we had set aside a small corner for the presentation of a "Museum of Memories" depicting the difficult years of our migration. These "Memories" are already well described in the book "70 Years of Life in Two Countries" which is in itself a "Museum" of descriptions, photos, newspaper clippings and life stories of people who have contributed to the progress of this Country.

However, to be complete, the book needed something more. A collection of those items brought from Italy or used by Italians for their work in Australia. Hence the "Museum". This is a tribute to the "poor" years, the years of struggles, hopes and dreams. Today, these objects from our past may be forgotten in some dusty corner but it is these very objects that we want to exhibit for all to see as a symbol of our past. We want our young to be proud of their father's work and to be inspired to even greater heights.

There is Italian workmanship on most building sites. The English language has been enriched by many Italian words. Italian influence can be seen also in fashion, music, art, industry, sport, politics, and in fact everywhere Italian names feature. We can truthfully say that if Australians are proud of their Bicentenary Australia, some of their pride should be reserved for Italians and their work towards the progress of this wonderful Country.

We leave you with the message from the then Mayor of Sydney Mr. Armstrong, who in 1968 for the opening of the **first Italian Festival**, wrote:

So, HATS OFF Italians of yesterday. This modest "Museum-Exhibition" is a tribute to you and to our roots. Let the Italians of today and those of tomorrow learn from you!!!

Mamma Lena and
Dino Gustin

Sydney March 1988