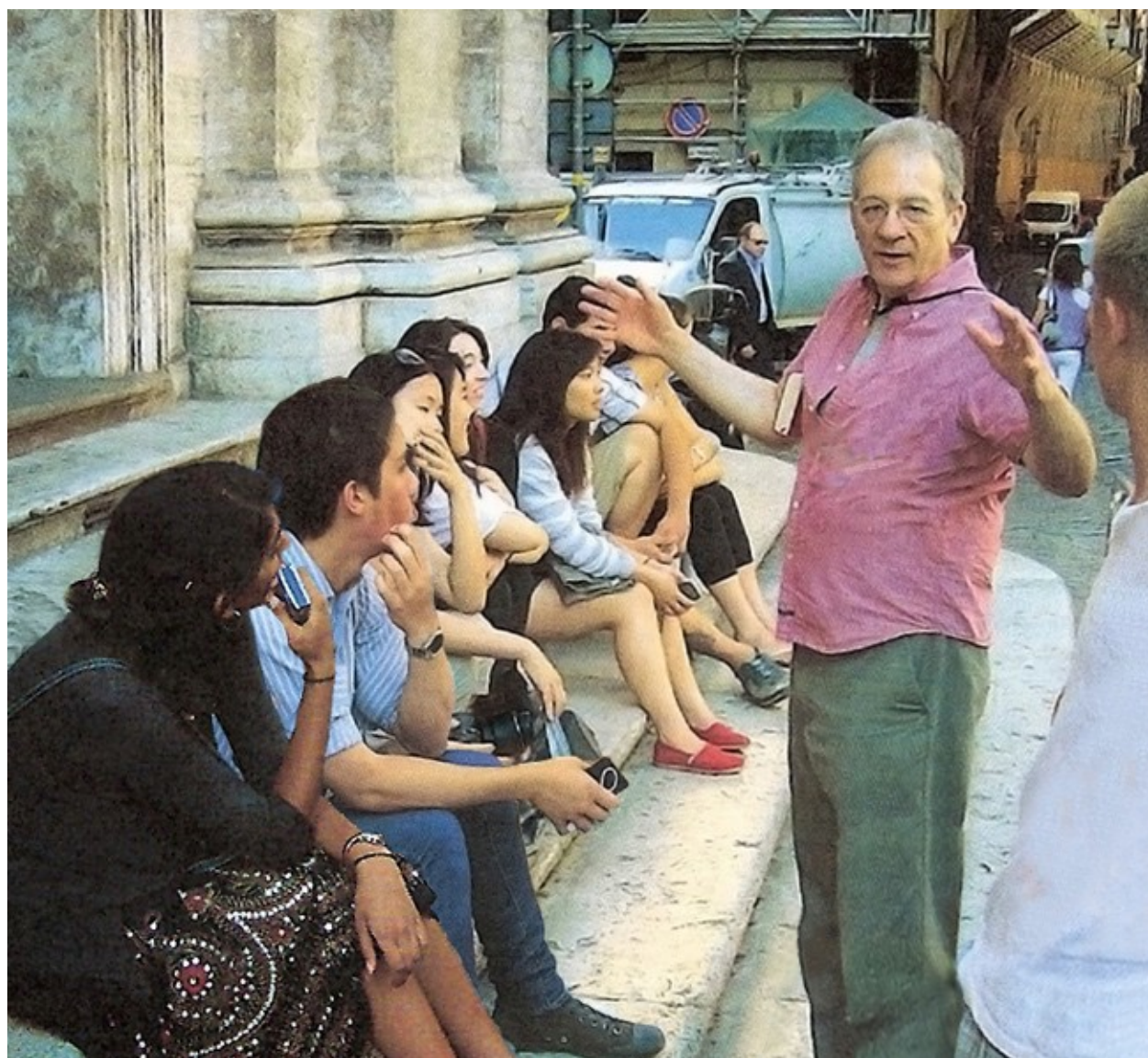


## John Marino: An Appreciation



No one has been more instrumental in the success of this journal and its sister organization, the California Interdisciplinary Consortium for Italian Studies (CICIS), than the late John Marino, Professor Emeritus of History at the University of California, San Diego. His contributions extend far beyond his roles as founder, board member, issue co-editor, author, panel organizer, and speaker. It was he who, in conversations with Albert Ascoli and Jon Snyder, among others, first hatched the idea of an annual conference for students and scholars of Italian Studies in California and then worked with representatives from the University of California campuses to bring it about. The journal *California Italian Studies* was proposed some years later at a meeting of these same representatives in which John played a leading role. It is no exaggeration to say that without his involvement and support neither this journal nor CICIS would exist. A scholar of

international repute in early modern European history, John Marino died peacefully at his home in San Diego on December 3, 2014 at age 68. We mourn the passing of this admired colleague, respected scholar, dedicated educator, selfless advocate for our organization, and true friend, with a deep sense of loss and gratitude for all he has done.

During his distinguished career, John was best known as a historian of the city and kingdom of Naples, the Italian Mezzogiorno, Spanish Italy, Renaissance and Reformation Europe, and the Mediterranean world. His two books on Naples in the 16<sup>th</sup> and early 17<sup>th</sup> century are widely acclaimed, and one has appeared in Italian translation. In addition to these monographs, he edited or co-edited eight anthologies and journal issues. He published more than 40 research articles on such topics as government, politics, art and sciences in Naples and Spanish Italy, the Italian Enlightenment, law and society in Italy and Spain, and the history and sociology of the Mediterranean. His research garnered awards from the Fulbright Fellowship program, the Fondazione Luigi Einaudi, the Datini Institute in Prato, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Cesare Barbieri Fellowship program, the Rockefeller Foundation Bellagio Center, and the Newberry Library in Chicago. In addition to his years on the faculty at UCSD he served, early in his career, as a visiting assistant professor of History at Florida International University in Miami, Florida, and was later a Visiting Professor in the History Department of the University of Rome III “Tor Vergata.”

John was born and raised in an Italian-American neighborhood of Chicago, surrounded by an extended family on both his father’s and mother’s side. His parents were children of immigrants and, after graduating as valedictorian from a Catholic high school, he attended the University of Chicago, where he earned a BA in History (1968), a Masters of Arts in General Studies in the Humanities (1970), and a PhD in History (1977). During his graduate student summers John visited relatives in Sicily, where he solidified his knowledge of Italian and grew to love the land and culture of his forebearers. The fields of specializations for his doctoral examinations indicate the breadth of interests informing his many publications and lectures: Late Medieval and Early Modern Italy, the Ottoman Empire, and the Anthropology of the Mediterranean. His dissertation, completed under William H. McNeill, was an archive-centered study of the Dogana of Foggia in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. After a yearlong post-doctoral fellowship in Rome researching in the Doria-Pamphili archives, he took the position of assistant professor of History at the University of California, San Diego.

For more than 35 years, John was a pillar of education in History and Humanities at the University of California, San Diego. A strong advocate for the importance of the humanities in the modern university, John sought to educate students at this science-and engineering-oriented institution in the critical thinking and research-based approach to culture and society that he so valued from his undergraduate days at the University of Chicago.

For than more than a quarter century, he taught a large required general-education Humanities course for Revelle College on campus; and, for a decade, he reprised it each year for a smaller group of students in Rome as a part of the Education Abroad Program. As chair of the steering committee on general education, he directed the group that designed the new three-term Sixth College sequence on Art, Culture and Technology, and he inaugurated the second course in

this sequence. For History, he regularly taught core graduate research seminars in early modern history, focusing on such topics as European historiography, the city in Europe and the Mediterranean. He was the dissertation advisor for half a dozen PhDs, who subsequently embarked on academic careers. When, as often happened, someone remarked on how much time and energy, and how much of himself, he put into his teaching and advocating for the humanities, he would reply: “we owe it to our students; they deserve it.” In 2013-14, the University recognized his excellence in education with the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Distinguished Teaching Award.

John was no less committed to university and professional service. He realized that at a large public research institution, administrative and committee work were a key means of fostering a sense of community. He was chair of the Department of History for four years and served with distinction on some of the most important campus and university-wide committees, including committees on Academic Personnel, Educational Policy, Budget and Planning, Research, and Education Abroad, as well as the Academic Senate Council and the Academic Senate Administration Council. For three years, he directed the European Lecture series, which brought to UCSD leading scholars in the Humanities and Social Sciences. In addition to his fundamental service for CICIS and this journal, John took a leadership role in both the Renaissance Society of America and the Society of Sixteenth-Century Studies, for which he was Conference President in 2000. He wrote and published more 50 books reviews, most for the journals of professional societies, a largely thankless task for which he got no credit at the University but which continues to be central to the community of scholars and scholarship.

Community was also at the center of John’s research. Although a committed archivist, he never lost sight of the big picture. Even his most technical studies in the history of economy emphasize that policy and procedures are not only concerned with funds and funding, but with social and political alliances, antagonisms and cohesions. His first book, entitled *Pastoral Economics in the Kingdom of Naples* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1988; Italian edition: *L'economia pastorale nel Regno di Napoli*, trans. Luigi Piccioni, Naples: Guida, 1992), explores the ways in which the annual migration of sheep shaped the culture and society of Naples in what he called “the long sixteenth century.” *Becoming Neapolitan: Civic Culture in Baroque Naples* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2011) describes and analyzes the festivals, processions, stories, actions and activities passed down from generation to generation that helped Neapolitans to create their respective identities. His articles on Braudel, the invention of Europe, and the rise of Mediterranean Studies trace how a scholar and his books, a political idea and a change of categories can produce new accounts of academic, legal, institutional and social structures and groupings. His study of the reaction of Italian scholars to Braudel is still one of the half dozen most requested articles ever published by this journal.

John met his wife Cynthia Truant, a professor emerita of History at the University of California, San Diego, when they were both PhD students at the University of Chicago. He is survived by her; his sister Joanne Marino, a prominent educator specializing in English as a Second Language and literacy, now retired; his daughter Sara, the Communications and

Marketing Coordinator at the Skirball Cultural Center in Los Angeles; and his son Marc, a PhD student in Neuroscience at UCSD.

John was a great listener and wise friend who steered me through dozens of crises, big and small, imagined and real. He always saw the larger context of issues and problems, for he understood how an action or policy affected other people. An avowed atheist, he was, in the deepest and most human sense, the best and most moral person I have known, always putting others and the greater good before sectarian interests, including his own.

John always looked forward to the annual CICIS conference and the chance that it provided to see old and new friends. He will be sorely missed.

— Jack M. Greenstein, April 24, 2015