

ASSOCIAZIONE EX-ALLIEVI E DOCENTI  
ISTITUTO NAUTICO SAN GIORGIO  
GENOVA

## NEWSLETTER

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### Contents:

✚ Zumbai	p. 2
✚ Giardini Tarabotto	p. 4
✚ A visit to the tall ship Vespucci	p. 6
✚ Xmas Dinner	p. 9
✚ The raffle	p.10
✚ The 2017 Association River Cruise	p.10
✚ Reminders	p.11

# "ZUMBAI"

*by Bauer*

## Abstract

In this article our President Francesco Boero pours out his feelings about the course of events connected to the celebrations for the Bicentenary.

He was disappointed by the limited participation of the school teachers and of the people connected to the maritime world. He was also saddened by the fussy criticism expressed by some who didn't lift a finger to help and by the interference of people who do not know almost anything about seafaring. He also underlines all the hard work that went into the organization of the celebration and thanks those who worked hard for its success.

*(To read the text in its complete original version go to the Italian site - La Carretta n.124)*

Today I'd like to start off by explaining what ZUMBAI means. ZUMBAI had nothing to do with the Japanese BANZAI. It was a greeting, a sort of battle cry, meant and used to encourage and fire up the students' spirits.

Today I also feel like remembering our old Carretta, the original one that we students wrote to tease our teachers and classmates and even people outside the school.



Now, let's talk about the celebrations for the Bicentenary of Istruzione Nautica in Genoa. (The anniversary has been mistaken by the so called 'capitani coraggiosi')

for the bicentenary of Istituto Nautico San Giorgio - which, however is only 95 years old, dating back to 1921 when the courses were moved to Piazza Palermo.)

I first heard about this anniversary last year at our Xmas dinner.

I was asked to organize something to celebrate it. *Istituto Tecnico Nautico San Giorgio* and *Collegio Nazionale Capitani L.C. e D.M.* agreed on organizing and promoting the celebrations with us. I plunged headlong into the project for I do still love Nautico.

Now the programme is nearing its end and it has been organized as agreed.

I have received a positive feedback from the public (on everything apart from the disgraceful event that took place at Salone ABCD, as requested by the school, which was spoiled by people who have nothing to do with the sea and know little about it.)

I was saddened by the polemics concerning the programme leaflet (which we were obliged to re-print due to the interference of a third party), the invitations, the speakers, the buffets offered, etc.

I was disappointed by the limited interest shown by the school teachers and by the people working in the maritime field. We sent invitations to almost all the people, bodies and associations operating in the maritime field in Genoa (when we could find their correct addresses) and to the city authorities. Unfortunately few came to the events.

All things considered, I will surely be more cautious in the future before being involved in similar ventures.

We greatly appreciated the help provided by the school students, we were present at the ceremony of the launching of *Nina VI*, the boat restored by the students of the school shipbuilding course, and we are willing to contribute financially to see her completed so that the students may enjoy her.

I wish to thank all those who contributed to the success of the celebrations: the school students, the speakers, the chairmen and the ones who attended the events.

## Reports on Past Events

# Giardini Tarabotto

by Virgilio Bozzo

On 24 October, in the morning, the new gardens named after Captain Francesco Tarabotto, Master of the *Rex*, were opened. The gardens are in Boccadasse at the top of via Felice Cavallotti, near the old bus depot.

Francesco Tarabotto was born in Lerici on 10 July 1877 and attended Istituto Nautico in Genova getting his final diploma in 1896.



The most important representatives of *Comune, Città Metropolitana, Collegio Capitani* and other maritime organisations were present at the ceremony

There was also a large group of students from *Istituto Nautico San Giorgio*, accompanied by Ms Brunella Allasia, one of the school teachers. The students had put on the smart blue sweaters with the school logo and carried the Italian flag.

Five members of the Association Board were present with the Association pennant. Some former students of Nautico San Giorgio were also present and among them there were some retired Captains of the Company *Italia*.

The students from *Scuola Media Statale Gilberto Govi* in Sturla read entries from the Rex logbook concerning the miles travelled, the average speeds of the vessel and the weather conditions on specific days. They also read the pages concerning her arrival in New York, in August 1933, when she managed to capture the Blue Riband (on its westbound crossing with a time of four days and thirteen hours, with an average speed of 28.92 knots. A record that would last till 1935.

The Navy band played the Navy Hymn and other famous pieces and concluded its programme with the National Anthem at the very moment when the Director of *Opera Pia Don Orione* blessed the plaque dedicated to Captain Tarabotto .

In his speech Don D'Acunto recalled that Captain Tarabotto and Don Orione first met during a voyage to South America and became friends. When Captain Tarabotto, who lived for many years in Corso Italia passed away, he bequeathed everything to *Opera San Luigi Orione*, which still takes care of his grave in *Staglieno* cemetery.

The event organizer was Mr Flavio Testi, expert in transatlantics and author of research articles, who is personally very fond of the *Rex* because his father, Metello, worked on board her from 1932 to 1940 being in charge of her power plant. The various panels, depicting the *Rex* that hung in the garden belonged to him

I would like to mention some other seafarers, who worked on board the *Rex* but who, unfortunately, are hardly ever remembered. They are Chief Engineer Luigi Risso (born in Bogliasco on 4 August, 1867) and First Officer Giuseppe Ottino (born in Genova on 27 December, 1885) who were on board during the famous Blue Riband crossing and Chief Engineer Giovanni Bergamino (born in Genova on 15 December, 1875) who was on board the vessel on her maiden voyage.

They all had attended our Maritime School.



*N.B. The “Carretta” had already been issued when we learnt about this event. We do apologize if someone was not informed.*



## **Reports on Past Events**

# A visit to the tall ship Vespucci

*by Piercarlo Rota*



On 10 June, a small group of our members could visit the tall ship Amerigo Vespucci moored in the port of Genoa on occasion of her special cruise to celebrates her 85 years.

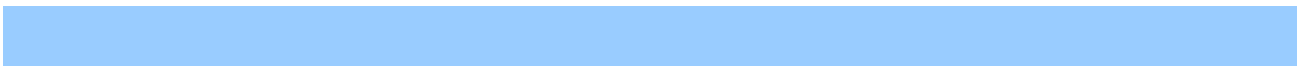
The vessel has been completely renovated, restored and painted but she is still the same as when she was launched in 1936 at Castellammare di Stabia shipyard.

It was a very hot sunny afternoon.. We walked from bow to stern seeing masts, sails, ropes, blocks, etc. Unfortunately the visit was too short and quick because a large group was due to get on board at 3.30pm. (About 6500/7000 people visited the vessel in the few hours at disposal during her stay in port ...).



We do hope to be able to take part in the Italian Marine celebrations programmed to commemorate the Great War of 1915-1918.

**Zumbai** to all of you!



## News on Upcoming Events

# Xmas Dinner

Our traditional Xmas dinner (with a free raffle) will take place at the **"FUORIGROTTA"** restaurant, *Corso Gastaldi 191 R (Tel. 010-5220171 or 010-5221761)* ) at 8:00pm on Tuesday, 20 December. The dinner is , as usual, open to all members, their families and friends, and this year it is also open to *Collegio Capitani* and *Istituto Nautico San Giorgio*.  
Cost: (service included) : € 32 per person



## Menu



### *Aperitif and cuculli*

#### *Starters:*

*Platter of cold cuts and mozzarella*

*Seafood savoyarde*

#### *First course:*

*Risotto with mushrooms*

*Scialatielli Fuorigrotta style*

#### *Main course:*

*Mix of gridlled meats*

*Grilled squid*

#### *Dessert:*

*Home-made cake*

*Lemon sorbet, water, wine, coffee, drinks.*

**Booking deadline: 16 DECEMBER,**

**To book, please call one of the following numbers:**

**- prof. Fioravanti: 339 7210618**

**- prof. Sartori: 342 1214372**

**- the Association mobile: 338 5993370 (form 10.00 to 11.30am Tuesdays , Wednesdays and Thursdays).**

**Alternatively, you can send an email to: [armandofioravanti@fastwebnet.it](mailto:armandofioravanti@fastwebnet.it)**

**N.B. If you book but, then, you cannot come, will you please contact the restaurant (tel. 010 580553) to inform them, otherwise the Association will have to pay for no-show expenses.**



## The raffle

***During our Christmas Dinner we will set up a raffle among the participants.***

***The lottery prize is a ticket for 2 people for a cruise in the Mediterranean Sea in 2017.***

***The ticket is offered by Costa Cruises to sponsor the Bicentenary.***

***The proceeds from the raffle will be used to subsidize our scholarships.***

## *The 2017 Association River Cruise*

**For all details go to the News**



# Reminders

If you wish to renew your association, as we hope, you can do it by paying the yearly fee of €20 in cash at our premises or by postal order (c/c n° 13793161 made payable to "Associazione ex allievi e docenti" Nautico S.Giorgio).

**As a member you are entitled to request:**

- the Association crest
- the Association tie.
- the volumes:
  - *"La storia dell'Istituto Nautico San Giorgio di Genova"* (new edition) by Virgilio Bozzo and Armando Fioravanti.
  - *"Nino Bixio e le questioni del mare"* by Virgilio Bozzo and Armando Fioravanti.

**All contributions will be entirely devoted to our scholarships.**



Will you please remember to let us have your mail account by writing to:  
[postmaster@exsangiorgio.it](mailto:postmaster@exsangiorgio.it) or to [armandofioravanti@fastwebnet.it](mailto:armandofioravanti@fastwebnet.it)

You can visit our sites at:

[www.exsangiorgio.it](http://www.exsangiorgio.it) (Italian) and [www.myexsangiorgio.it](http://www.myexsangiorgio.it) (English) .