

Italian Canadiana

Foreword

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[Aller au sommaire du numéro](#)

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Foreword

The writings in this special issue of *Italian Canadiana*, edited by Delia De Santis, stem from the 16th Biennial Conference of the Association of Italian Canadian Writers (AICW), held in Padula, Italy, on August 2016.

The convegno, titled “Italian-Canadian Literature: Departure, Journeys, Destinations” was an important meeting of academics and creators and an essential exchange of ideas. It was a time for looking back at the work they had accomplished, but also an opportunity to share new projects, to look forward and consider new approaches and creative possibilities. This volume includes the literary expression of the first-generation immigrants and their offsprings. They write passionately of significant moments in their lives, real or metaphoric; they create characters that re-evaluate the hardships and painful memories; they write words and stories that touch many Canadians, many Italians. Poets, short story writers, memoirists—they have taken a necessary step back and successfully negotiated their way through (im)migration writing and evolved towards universal literature. They are our literary present, and future, in Canada. A testament to that is the calibre of writing that fills the pages of this volume, which contains seven academic essays, three personal essays, three interviews and the works of thirteen authors and poets—an admirable collection in its diversity. Just as it is implicit in the title of the conference, *Departure, Journeys, Destinations*, although Italian Canadian writers have had many types of departures and journeys, they converge in their destination.

I would like to thank Delia De Santis for preparing this special issue of *Italian Canadiana*.

Buona lettura!

Salvatore Bancheri
Editor