

CARLA CASTIGLIONI SESSI, President

Carla Castiglioni Sessi was born in Rignano sull'Arno, near Florence, in 1942 and now resides in Arezzo where she lives and works. She holds a Ph.D. degree in Literature from the University of Florence.

Professional Experience Highlights

1962-63 - Organized at Rignano sull'Arno a Junior High School course for working students.

1968-1985 - Taught in Arezzo Italian, Latin, History and Geography at the high school level.

1987 - Founded the International Study Center "Baldassarre Castiglione." As director of the Center she organizes specialization courses for foreign students. The Center's first programs, in 1987, were Jewel Making, Italian Language, Italian Art History, Interior Design and History of Furniture.

1989 - To emphasize the cultural value of the Minor Arts, under her guidance the Center developed new specialization courses such as History of Miniatures, Ceramics and Lace and Embroidery.

1990 - She initiated a Landscape Painting course.

1991 - As part of her ongoing educational and research work, she began her cooperation with the Soprintendenza Archeologica Toscana (Archeological Superintendence of Tuscany) under whose aegis she began organizing Archaeology Seminars.

1993 - Created a number of advanced seminars connected with the specialization courses. Since 1993 the Center's programs have been included in the yearly official report (Annuario) of Italian Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

1994 - The Center obtained UNESCO's official recognition. That same year participated in the "Mediterranean Project" in Barcelona, Spain, of the "Centro UNESCO de Catalunya", offering as a program "Urbanism and Artisans" through the study of Italian Language, Italian Art History, Archaeology and Goldsmithery.

1995 - The Study Center developed a second program of "Continuing Education" for Adults, and became an institutional member of the American Association of Teachers of Italian (AATI).

1996 - At the beginning of 1996, together with the Departments of Italian and the Linguistic Centers of Oxford University, University of Kent at Canterbury, University of Exeter, Universidad de Castilla, La Mancha, Trinity College Dublin and St. Martin's College Lancaster, the Center took part in the presentation of the project "Italia 2000" (ERASMUS LINGUA V - AZIONE B) at the University of Parma's Linguistic Center.

In the same year the Center was awarded the patronage of the Italian National Institute of Tourism (ENIT), with the authorization to use the logo "ITALIA" on its publications and during its cultural events.

1998 - The Baldassarre Castiglione Center received the Patronage of the Italian Presidency, Tourism Sector.

2000 - Organizes two specialized courses that receive the official approval by the "Formazione Professionale" Office of the Arezzo Province. These courses were designed specifically for the formation of English interpreters in the field of ceramics and wood furnishings. In preparation of these two courses she coordinates the realization of two specialized dictionaries containing photos and the explanation and translation of the relevant technical terminology.

2002 - She is asked by the Arezzo's Chamber of Commerce and Federimpresa to elaborate a special project specifically designed for the protection and preservation of traditional crafts as art. Denominated "ART&ART" the project is formally presented on February 2003 under the patronage of the Arezzo's Chamber of Commerce, The National Institute for Foreign Trade (ICE), and Confartigianato.

2003 - On behalf of the Arezzo's Confartigianato realized a project based on the relationship between agriculture and food production, entitled "Dalla Terra alla Tavola". The project deals primarily with the so-called "Prodotti DOC", that is with the authentic and historically recognized produces of the Arezzo territory.

2004 - Begins a collaboration with the School of Education of Okkaido Bunkyo College, Japan, by organizing a seminar entitled "*Il racconto all'origine del conoscere - Studio di una metodologia didattica innovativa*" (Storytelling at the Origin of the Cognitive Process: A Study of a New Teaching Methodology.) The seminar was based primarily on the teaching methods used at the "Arcobaleno" school of Subbiano.

2006 – Under the aegis of the Centro di Formazione EUROBIC TOSCANA SUD, S.p.a, participates as a teaching scholar on the subject of arts and crafts found in the Siena territory to the project "Aggiornamento Uffici Turistici della Provincia di Siena".

Publications and Varia

She has contributed to various journals and magazines (ITALY ITALY Magazine, Western European Stages, Casta, etc.) with articles on Arezzo and its territory and the crafts and minor arts in general. She is a regular contributor to AREZZO TV, and has organized and chaired various panels on the Planning and the Educational aspects of Tourism. She is a cultural consultant for the prestigious Italian Touring Club.