

# Syracuse and Italy Exchange Greetings



Cavalier Pier Pasquale Spinelli, Italian vice-consul at New York, who this afternoon formally presented the Columbus Monument to the city, visiting City Hall to receive an official morning welcome to Syracuse from Mayor Holland B. Marvin. Left to right: Consul Spinelli, Mayor Marvin, Prof. Renzo V. Baldi of Florence, Italy, sculptor of the statue; Joseph J. Pietrafesa, president of the Syracuse Columbus Monument Association, and Frank G. Revor, reception chairman.

## Thousands Honor Columbus, March to St. Marys Square For Dedication of Statue

### Commemorative Floats, Bands and Motorcade Lengthen Lines in Which 2,500 Parade Downtown

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official, spiritual, cultural and patriotic life.

These included the Most Rev. John A. Duffy, bishop of the Roman Catholic diocese of Syracuse; Mayor Holland B. Marvin; Joseph J. Pietrafesa, chairman of the monument commission; the architect of the memorial and the newly landed sculptor-artist of the statue itself; members of the various committees which had made the memorial, the parade and the dedication possible, with other groups of visiting dignitaries, led by representatives of the Italian government.

Sixty patrolmen who were on night duty reported again at 7 o'clock this morning, for emergency traffic work in anticipation of the Columbus Day parade.

A chorus of 500 school children—today in school holiday—sang after trumpets blared, a signaling fanfare that the exercises had begun.

Dwight James Baum, architect of the pediments and the general memorial, found himself joined by Prof. V. Renzo Baldi of Florence, Italy, sculptor of the statue, who arrived unexpectedly from Italy especially for the event.

Massed music by the Manlius School Cadet Band, a band of Italian-American musicians and the band and field music of C Company of the 108th Infantry brought the ceremonies to a close, as a chorus of Onondaga Indians also joined in the melody.

Twilight and before the ceremonies this morning two events of outstanding importance likewise were high-spots in Columbus Day. This morning Asher Markson presented post and American flags to the officers of Post 1 of the Italian-American Veterans of the United States at the Markson store in North Salina Street. Commander Anthony Senese accepted the flag. Col. Conrad H. Lanna of the 8th Division, Organized Reserve, and Legion officers also spoke.

Observance of Columbus Day will be fittingly closed with a dinner at Hotel Syracuse, under the auspices of the Columbus Memorial Association. The Rev. Angelo Stranazzi of St. Peter's Church, Toastmaster Frank del Vecchio, Mayor Marvin, Consul Spinelli, Consul Agent Corrado Armeri, Mr. Pietrafesa and Anthony P. Gia Russo are to be speakers.

At the conclusion of the young ladies' chorus, Mr. Giarrusso introduced Mr. Pietrafesa, who spoke as follows:

"My dear friends, this is indeed a happy day for all of us. The time has come for the dedication of the Christopher Columbus memorial. On behalf of the Columbus Monument Association I shall ask Miss Irene Marvin to unveil the monument. Miss Marvin, will you be so gracious as to unveil the Columbus memorial to Syracuse?"

The Mayor's young daughter then pulled the silk cords which threw aside the covering of the statue. As she went back to her seat, she was thanked by Mr. Pietrafesa, who continued:

"There can be no more fitting occasion than this for an inspiring address, and with that thought in mind, I present to you his excellency, the Most Rev. John A. Duffy, Bishop of Syracuse."

After the address by the Bishop, Mr. Giarrusso introduced Dwight James Baum, the architect who designed the pedestal and the general scheme of the sculptured memorial. Mr. Baum formally approved the memorial and officially turned it over to Mr. Pietrafesa. He then introduced Prof. V. Renzo Baldi, the distinguished sculptor, who came especially from his studio in Florence, Italy, to be here at the dedication.

"Having been selected as the one to accept this great monument, I do so mindful of the rare honor conferred upon me," said Mr. Pietrafesa. "It is also a signal honor, indeed, which enables me on behalf of all those who have made this memorial possible, to express to you Mr. Baum our gratitude and appreciation for the part you have played in this achievement."

"Those of you who may not be aware of it should know that Mr. Baum, who has served as architect and designer of this masterpiece did so without compensation or reward. Joining with us in our enthusiasm and ambition he gave freely of his invaluable services without thought of pay so that our ideal might be realized. From the bottom of our hearts, Mr. Baum, we thank you and assure

you that the memory of your generosity will never fade.

"The sculptor and creator of the statue, with its supporting figures and reliefs, as you know, the great artist Prof. V. Renzo Baldi. Out of a clear sky, and with the same unexpected note which marked the advent of Columbus to America, Professor Baldi arrived to be with us in this, our moment of joy and triumph. To him we pay the tribute he so richly deserves as a master of genius, as a peer of his art. With it all we make bold to prophesy that through this work Professor Baldi enters the ranks of the immortals in the fields of art and sculpture."

When the noted sculptor had finished a brief acknowledgment, speaking in Italian, Mayor Marvin was introduced.

"I come next," said Mr. Pietrafesa, "to a very pleasant duty, the acknowledgment of a debt at home, to our own and great Mayor, Holland B. Marvin."

"If the Mayor had not had faith in us, if he had not been able to force this beautiful monument as we did, if he had not had the generosity of spirit which inspired the help he gave to us in innumerable ways, we would not be here today. Words indeed are meaningless as a time like this—out expressing ourselves as best we can, we tender to you, Mayor Marvin, our most profound appreciation and regard—our respectful devotion, and our sincere gratitude for all that you have done for us."

"And I want to say just a word at this time to all those loyal friends and tireless workers who have given to me the honor of leading them in this ideal; to you, whom I shall never forget, an affectionate thank you and God bless you!"

And now, I wish to request the Hon. Holland B. Marvin and Cavalier Pier Pasquale Spinelli to step forward, please."

What the Mayor and the Italian consul joined him, he went on:

"Cavalier Spinelli, in behalf of the citizens of Onondaga County who are of Italian origin, and of all of our friends who have helped in one way or another to erect this memorial, I request you to take this deed of the monument, and present it for us to Mayor Marvin for the people of the City of Syracuse."

Mayor Marvin, in accepting the memorial, said:

"I share with you the pride and satisfaction of this occasion. This ceremony is more than the mere unveiling of a handsome monument. It is more than just the addition of another beauty to an historic and beloved spot in our city. This is a triumph of civic spirit. It marks the successful culmination of a community enterprise in which a great many good Syracuseans worked together, hand in hand, as good neighbors and good friends."

"This is a memorial to a great adventurer who is one of the immortal heroes of a great race. This monument is not only a memorial to Christopher Columbus, but also a testimonial to the good spirit and enterprise of the American citizens of Italian descent who make up a substantial share of our population, and represent an important factor in our social and economic life."

"In behalf of the City of Syracuse, I accept this monument, and I accept it in the spirit in which it is given. It is given by a group of Syracuseans, inspired, of course in some degree by racial pride, but in a larger degree inspired by patriotic Americanism and the desire to share in the growth and advancement of our community."

"This is a splendid memorial. It has an air of stately dignity combined with a beautiful simplicity. Its design will endure through changes in styles and fashions. Its stone and bronze will weather stern and unshrinking. For many years beyond the life of the youngest person in this gathering it will remain as a thing to be admired and treasured. The children of children who are here will find it as heroic, as inspiring, as we find it today."

"I am naturally inclined to speak in praise of several persons whose names come to mind in connection with this occasion. I could pay high compliments to the distinguished Syracusean who for love of his city gave his valuable services freely and willingly to the design of this memorial, and I could describe in glowing terms the tireless energy that was expended by certain men and women who carried on the enterprise of the Colum-

bus Monument Association when the going was difficult.

"But I shall not single out any person or any few persons for praise, because there are hundreds who share in this accomplishment. Gifts of money, large and small, some from persons who could afford to be generous, and some from persons of the humblest means, made up the sum which this monument cost. That is one of the finest things about this memorial. It was built by the contributions of many—by money given without return except for that satisfaction which comes from participation in a worthwhile community effort."

"And so I accept this monument—and as I said before—I accept it in the spirit with which it is given. I am glad that the city administration was a helpful factor in bringing this enterprise to a successful conclusion. I am glad that we of the City Hall can be counted among those who shared in the work, and who may therefore, share in the satisfaction of accomplishment."

"The city of Syracuse may well count this memorial among its finest possessions. And let us hope that this accomplishment, this evidence of community spirit and team work, will prove to be symbolic of the spirit with which the Italian-Americans of this city will join with their fellow citizens in all future enterprises for the advancement and good of our city."

Previous to the beginning of the parade, a ceremonial scene was enacted in City Hall, which had dignity despite the warmth of the greetings involved. This came when a group of visiting officials and guests of the monument committee paid their official calls on Mayor Marvin in his office. The group was presented by Frank G. Revor.

They were escorted to the Mayor's office by a squad of uniformed members of the Italian-American Veterans' Post No. 1. With Mr. Revor were, in addition to Professor Baldi, the sculptor, these other notables in the celebration: Mr. Pietrafesa, Cavalier Pier Pasquale Spinelli, Italian Consul of the New York consulate general; Consul Agent Armeri, Anthony P. Giarrusso, Nicholas Firro and Capt. Pasquale Bennett.

"I am as happy as any of you can be," the Mayor assured them, "to join you in celebrating this day. It is an occasion to which we all have looked forward, this completion of the monument to Columbus. The people of Syracuse deeply appreciate the efforts of the Italian-Americans of the city to give this monument to the city. The memorial is truly beautiful."

The welcoming to and by the city concluded, the Mayor, the welcoming committee and the distinguished guests prepared for the parade and pageant.