

FAMILY PORTRAITS

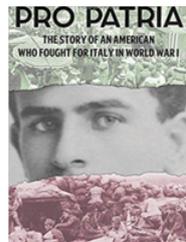


“Famiglia: A Pictorial History of the Descendants of Alessandria del Carretto, Cosenza, Italy” was written in English and Italian by James Arvia to honor

the memory of his grandparents, Carmine Arvia and Angela Veneziano, who were born in Alessandria and immigrated to Chicago in 1900. Taken over a 70-year period in Alessandria, Argentina, Australia and Chicago, the photos in the book are published in their original state to preserve their authenticity. Many of the families portrayed in the book settled in the Roseland/Kensington area of Chicago, where Arvia grew up. The pure joy of writing the book was so priceless, according to Arvia, that he is donating all the profits to the town of Alessandria del Carretto and its local church, St. Alexander Martyr. (eBay.com)

TORN BY WAR

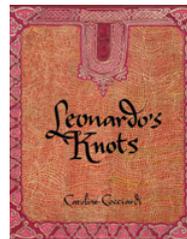
When Bernardino Bernardini returned to his home in Chicago after serving as an Italian infantryman in World War I, he brought with him a few photographs, a scrap of a letter and a journal. Two year later, that journal blossomed



into a 247-page memoir that captured his wartime thoughts and experiences. “He was neither hero nor coward,” writes his daughter, Marcella Bernard, “rather, an Everyman conflicted by two birthrights and two cultures.” For the centenary of the World War I armistice, Bernard fulfilled her father’s wish to have the work turned into a novel. To the material in the memoir, she added family lore about her uncle as well as extensive research, creating “Pro Patria,” providing a fuller picture of Bernardino’s life before and during the Great War. (marcellabernard.com)

NUTS FOR KNOTS

In “Leonardo’s Knots,” Caroline Cocciardi celebrates the 500th anniversary of



Leonardo da Vinci’s birth by showcasing his talent for weaving art and mathematics into intricate works of visual beauty. Given the fertile mind of this complex and multifaceted ge-

nius, it’s no wonder that the non-verbal language of knots in their infinite variety of designs and themes captured his imagination, so much so that he devoted a lifetime to their exploration. Often overlooked yet integral to his aesthetic, interlocking knots can be found on all of his paintings, including the “Mona Lisa” and “Last Supper,” as well as “Salvator Mundi,” which recently sold at Christie’s for half a billion dollars. His dazzling workmanship on this miniscule level is showcased in Cocciardi’s book. (leonardosknots.com).