

The Professor Joseph Tusiani Collection

Scope and Content:

This collection represents the literary output of the internationally acclaimed poet, translator, humanist, and scholar Prof. Joseph Tusiani (1924-2020). In addition to his poetry and translations, the professor wrote books and book chapters, novels, essays, journal and magazine articles, literary criticism, and reviews. Prof. Tusiani was widely respected in Italy and the United States and wrote primarily in Italian, the Gargano dialect, Latin, English, and Spanish. In addition to his own publications, this collection includes translations of his works by other scholars, as well as their critiques and reviews.

Prof. Tusiani was a classicist and wrote prodigiously in Latin. His *Carmina Latina* (1994) the first of a series of seven volumes of poetry; as well as *In Nobis Caelum* another work of Latin poems and verse. Other notable works by the professor include his translations of *The Complete Poems of Michelangelo* (1960), *Tasso's Gerusalemme Liberata* (Jerusalem Delivered, 1970), and the full 35,000 lines of Pulci's *Morgante* (1998). His three-volume anthology included *Italian Poets of the Renaissance* (1971), *The Age of Dante* (1974), and *From Marino to Marinetti* (1974). Prof. Tusiani also produced *Storie dal Gargano* (2006), a fifty-year compilation of his dialectal works in Gargano. In addition, his *Gente Mia and Other Poems* (1978), Prof. Tusiani's three-volume autobiography *La Parola Difficile* (1988), *La Parola Nuova* (1991) and *La Parola Antica* (1992) explore immigrant experiences in the United States.

The Collection is arranged in the nineteen (19) series that follow:

[Series I Authored Works](#)

[Series II Translations](#)

[Series III Tusiani Translated](#)

[Series IV Contributing Author](#)

[Series V Written About \(Journals and Books\)](#)

[Series VI Magazines](#)

[Series VII Newspaper Clippings, Presentations, Listings](#)

[Series VIII Awards and Tributes](#)

[Series IX Family and Friends](#)

[Series X Other and Contracts](#)

[Series XI Music](#)

[Series XII San Marco in Lamis](#)

[Series XIII Old and Rare Books](#)

[Series XIV Media](#)

[Series XV Other Poets—Prof. Tusiani’s Notes](#)

[Series XVI Drafts of Works—Some Later Published](#)

[Series XVII Personal Notes and Comments in Texts](#)

[Series XVIII Dissertations and Other](#)

[Series XIX Dedications](#)

Date Range:

1930s – 2000. Bulk Dates: 1970s – 2000

Physical Description

The Prof. Joseph Tusiani Collection consists of his scholarly books, book chapters, reviews, journal, magazine and newspaper articles, clippings, photographs, CDs, DVDs, awards, and manuscripts. Writings about Prof. Tusiani’s work, by colleagues, scholars, and journalists are also part of the Collection and are seen in their books, translations of his works, their reviews, and articles in scholarly publications.

Subjects:

Italian Literature, Italian-American Culture, Italian Studies, Gargano dialect, Latin, San Marco in Lamis (Foggia), Italy

Creator:

Joseph Tusiani

Related Names:

Giuseppe Tusiani, Iosephus Tusiani, Iosephi Tusiani

Biographical/Historical Note:

Prof. Tusiani was born in San Marco in Lamis (Foggia), Italy. He taught Latin and Greek in San Severo, Italy, before receiving his doctorate in English literature, *summa cum laude*, from the University of Naples. In 1947, he migrated to the United States with a reading knowledge of English and developed his ability to perfect the language. His teaching began at the College of New Rochelle. Throughout his long career he would also teach at various times at Hunter College, New York University, Central Connecticut State College, Rutgers University, Fairleigh Dickinson University, and Fordham University.

The professor joined the faculty of the College of Mount St. Vincent in 1948 and he chaired the Italian Dept. until 1971. After twenty-three years at the Mount, he then moved to Lehman College, CUNY, accepting an appointment in the Romance Languages and Literatures Dept. where he taught Italian literature. Twelve years later, he retired as Professor Emeritus in 1983. Lehman College honored Prof. Tusiani with a Distinguished Accomplishment in Literature Award in 2015.

Prof. Tusiani's earlier honors included receiving the prestigious Greenwood Prize, in 1956, from the Poetry Society of England. Notably, he was the only American to then receive this award. In 1959, he was honored with the Royal Netherland Academy's Certamen Hoefftianum, silver medal, the most prestigious literary prize for Neo-Latin poetry. A meeting with John F. Kennedy, then a presidential candidate, led to an invitation to read his poetry at the White House. In 1963, at President Kennedy's request Prof. Tusiani recorded a selection of his *Rind and All* (1962) poems for the Library of Congress. The professor's poem "Standstill" was also realized in a crystal sculpture in Steuben Glass Company's Poetry in Crystal series in 1963. Receiving his Alice Fay di Castagnola Award from the Poetry Society of America in 1968 was followed in 1969 by receiving the Spirit Gold Medal from the Catholic Poetry Society of America. Other honors included receiving: the Leonard Covello Award in 1980; the Leone di San Marco Award in 1982; the U.S. Congressional Medal of Merit in 1984; Puglia's Italy Award of Excellence in America in 2011; and being named the New York State Poet Laureate Emeritus by Governor Andrew Cuomo in 2016.

Prof. Tusiani was also professionally active. He was the vice-president of the Poetry Society of America, from 1958-1968; and he directed the Catholic Poetry Society of America from 1956 -1969. He contributed essays, reviews, and poetry to many periodicals including: *Italica*; *Forum Italicum*; *Annali d'Italianistica*; *Humanistica Lovaniensia*; *Renaissance and Reformation*; *Renaissance Quarterly*; *The Classical Outlook*; *Italian Americana*; *Modern Language Journal*; *Journal of Italian Translation*; *Poesia*; and *Bridge Apulia USA*.

Collection size:

33.4 cubic feet; 101 archival boxes (includes 12A, 26A, 48A, 64A, 65A, 65B).

Language of Materials:

While the primary languages seen are in Italian, Gargano dialect, Latin and English, some materials are also in Spanish, French, Greek, German, Dutch, etc. as well.

Acquired and Copyright:

This collection was donated to Lehman College on December 28, 2021, by Mr. Michael Tusiani, brother of Prof. Tusiani. Copyright for original manuscript materials resides with Mr. Michael Tusiani and his Family.

Processing:

Arranged and curated onsite by Prof. Tusiani's long-time assistant Marguerite Zappa, working under the direction of Janet Butler Munch, Special Collections Librarian.

Access:

The materials are housed in the Special Collections division of Lehman College's Leonard Lief Library, and access is by appointment.

Recommended Citation:

The Prof. Joseph Tusiani Collection, Lehman College of The City University of New York (CUNY), Leonard Lief Library.

Ask Us:

For questions about The Professor Joseph Tusiani Collection, please e-mail us at:
<https://lehman.edu/library/email.php>