

Jeanne Brasile, Director – Walsh Gallery, Seton Hall University  
400 S. Orange Ave, South Orange, NJ 07079  
973-275-2033 or [jeanne.brasile@shu.edu](mailto:jeanne.brasile@shu.edu)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

The Walsh Gallery presents  
**Strangers in a Strange Land**  
An exhibition of Italian-language American imprints

Monday September 8 – Friday October 17, 2014  
**OPENING RECEPTION – WED., SEPT. 10<sup>TH</sup> 5 – 8PM**  
**READINGS FROM LITERATURE OF THE GREAT MIGRATION – WED, SEPT. 24<sup>TH</sup> 6 – 7:30PM**

The Walsh Gallery at Seton Hall University is pleased to present “Strangers in a Strange Land,” an exhibition of Italian-language imprints published in America. The exhibition, curated by James J. Periconi, illuminates the unique experiences of Italians in American history, particularly the period from the 1890’s through World War II, through an examination of Italian language publications. The cultural amnesia Italian-Americans experienced, and often still experience, was in part due to political pressure to assimilate quickly, creating a loss of identity and culture to those who migrated from Italy near the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Programming includes a reading of selected literary works from this period of The Great Migration by James Periconi and scholar, Robert Viscusi, of Brooklyn College. The exhibition and all programs are free and open to the public.

The exhibition features a wealth of literary treasures from Periconi’s collection with the aim of fostering reflection about the complex political and historical landscape occupied by Italians emigrating to America in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Notes Periconi, “The fact that so many Italian language publications were printed in America (as well as Italy) counters the misinformation about the literacy rates of Italian-Americans. The well-developed writing by authors and publishers of journals, poetry magazines, political leaflets and novels corroborates that Italian immigrants were more highly literate and educated than stereotypes would lead one to believe.” The exhibition confronts those stereotypes by displaying a wealth of literature and artifacts dating to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Through the experiences of Italian-American immigrants, parallels can also be drawn to the challenges faced today by a new wave of émigrés to America.

For 150 years, Seton Hall University has been a catalyst for leadership, developing the whole student, mind, heart and spirit. Seton Hall combines the resources of a large university with the personal attention of a small liberal arts college. Its attractive suburban campus is only 14 miles by train, bus or car to New York City, with the wealth of employment, internship, cultural and entertainment opportunities the city offers. Seton Hall is a Catholic university that embraces students of all races and religions, challenging each other to better the world with integrity, compassion and a commitment to serving others. For more information, see [www.shu.edu/walshgallery](http://www.shu.edu/walshgallery) Seton Hall University is located at 400 S. Orange Avenue, South Orange, New Jersey, 07079. The Walsh Gallery is open 10:30am to 4:30pm Monday – Friday.



E. M. Grella. *Vita. Satirico Settimanale* [Life. Satiric Weekly]. Vol. I, No.7 (December 1929). New York: E. M. Grella, 1929 12" x 9 3/8"



**JERRY'S artist outlet**

We are proud to contribute to schools and organizations to encourage artistic and humanitarian growth in our community.

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