



## AMERICAN ACADEMY IN ROME

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**The Italian Cultural Institute and the American Academy in Rome announce a two-day event celebrating the life and work of the Italian Nobel Laureate Eugenio Montale:**

**Eugenio Montale and Italian Poetry in the Twentieth Century**

**A reading of the work of Italian Nobel Laureate, Eugenio Montale, and an international conference dedicated to Eugenio Montale and Italian Poetry in the Twentieth Century will take place on 15 & 16 February 2011 at the American Academy in Rome in New York City.**

**READING -February 15 at 6PM**

**CONFERENCE -February 16 at 10AM-5:30PM**

**New York** - The American Academy in Rome in collaboration with the Italian Cultural Institute of New York will present a reading and international conference on Eugenio Montale and Italian Poetry in the Twentieth Century on the occasion of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Unification of Italy. The program will gather distinguished poets, translators and leading scholars to focus on Montale's lasting influence on Italian and American poetry. The events are open to the public and will take place in New York on 15 and 16 February 2011 at the New York City headquarters of the American Academy in Rome on 7 East 60<sup>th</sup> Street in Manhattan.

Eugenio Montale, (1896-1981), recipient of the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1975, is one of Italy's greatest twentieth century writers. Born in Genoa into a family of businessmen, Montale's early aspirations were to be an opera singer. After serving as an infantry officer in WWI he dedicated himself entirely to writing and literature. Throughout his prolific career he wrote for various publications and was a regular contributor to the *Corriere della Sera*. The futility of war and the rise of the fascist regime exerted a profound influence on Montale, who is admired for his original, introspective and experimental style. His first collection of poems, *Ossi di seppia* (*Cuttlefish Bones*), published in 1925, quickly became one of the classics of contemporary Italian poetry. In 1939, he published *Le occasioni* (*The Occasions*), which many consider to be his most innovative book, followed by *La bufera e altro* (*The Storm and Other Things*, 1956). He received honorary degrees from many world-famous universities including the University of Milan in 1964, Cambridge University in 1967, and the University of Basel in 1974. In 1967 he was made a lifetime member of the Italian Senate in recognition for his work and courageous opposition to fascism. Montale died in Milan in 1981 at the age of 85.

The reading on 15 February will present three American poets with strong ties both to Italy and to Montale. Jonathan Galassi, President and Publisher of Farrar, Straus and Giroux, has translated Montale's *Collected Poems* (1999) and *Selected Poems* (2004). The landscape of northern Italy and the work of artist Giorgio Morandi in particular have been of great importance to leading American poet Charles Wright, who has also translated Montale's *The Storm and Other Poems* (1978). Poet Rosanna Warren, RAAR'01, herself a translator, was a Boston University colleague of scholar William Arrowsmith, whose translations of Montale (*Cuttlefish Bones*, 1992; *Satura*, 1998) she edited, and from which she will read. Massimiliano Finazzer Flory, Commissioner for Culture of the City of Milan, will read the Italian originals of the Montale poems.

The full-day academic conference on 16 February will bring together leading Italian scholars of Montale; Fabio Finotti from the University of Pennsylvania, Gian Luigi Beccaria and Giorgio Ficara from the University of Turin; poet Annalisa Cima; writer Giuseppe Conte; as well as American Montale scholar Rebecca West (FAAR'79) from the University of Chicago. Among the topics to be discussed are issues of poetic language, translation, and interpretation of Montale's poetry. Anthony J. Tamburri of Queen's College and Stefano Albertini, Director of New York University's Casa Italiana Zerilli-Marimó will chair the sessions.

This reading and conference are made possible with the patronage of the Embassy of Italy to the United States in collaboration with the Commissioner for Culture of the City of Milan and the Foundation Rizzoli Corriere della Sera with support from Alitalia.

**Event:** Reading and Conference - *Eugenio Montale and Italian Poetry in the Twentieth Century*

**Reading:** Tuesday 15 February at 6pm

**Conference:** Wednesday 16 February at 10am-5:30pm

**Location:** American Academy in Rome, 7 East 60<sup>th</sup> Street, New York City

### **The American Academy in Rome**

Established in 1894 and chartered by an Act of Congress in 1905, the American Academy in Rome is a leading center for independent studies and advanced research in the arts and humanities. Situated on the Janiculum, the highest hill within the walls of Rome, the Academy today remains a private institution supported by gifts from individuals, foundations, corporations, and the memberships of colleges, universities, and arts and cultural organizations as well as by grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities. Each year, through a national competition, the Rome Prize is awarded to approximately thirty individuals working in ancient, medieval, Renaissance and early modern, or modern Italian studies, and architecture, landscape architecture, design, historic preservation and conservation, literature, musical composition, or visual art. The application deadline is November 1st. The Academy community also includes a select group of Residents, distinguished artists and scholars invited by the Director, as well as Affiliated Fellows, and Visiting Artists and Scholars.

For more information please visit: [www.aarome.org](http://www.aarome.org)

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### **The Italian Cultural Institute of New York**

Founded in 1961, the Italian Institute of Culture of New York is an official branch of the Italian government dedicated to the promotion of Italian language and culture in the United States through the organization of cultural events.

Under the guidance of its trustees at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, its advisory board, and its staff, the Italian Institute of Culture of New York conforms to this commitment by fostering the cultural exchange between Italy and the USA in a variety of areas from the arts to the humanities to science. Central to The Italian Institute of Culture of New York's mission is a constant effort to encourage the understanding and enjoyment of culture by the diverse audiences that New York has the privilege of serving. The development of academic exchanges, the organization and support of visual arts exhibitions, the aid to the translation and publication of Italian books, the promotion of Italian studies, and the cooperation with local institution in the planning of various events that focus on Italian music, dance, cinema, theater, architecture, literature, cuisine, etc., are but a few examples of the Institute's initiatives.

For more information please visit: [www.iicnewyork@esteri.it](mailto:www.iicnewyork@esteri.it)

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