

Proposed titles

MONTREAL: three worlds, three cultures

MONTREAL: the skyscrapers above, the countryside below

MONTREAL: metropolis and village

study on the Italian immigrants, against the background of an  
(almost) bilingual city

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THE ITALIANS OF MONTREAL

by Luciano Martinengo

Assistants: Thomas Wahlberg - Maria Bendinelli - John Broughton -  
Roland Nogue (1969)

16 mm. - black and white - 50 mins.

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Titles, juke)box, faces

Song "Valsugana": "Quando saremo fora, fora della Valsugana....  
Vieni a ritrovare la mama..;"

Café Italia

"A Genova, Genova batte Inter uno a zero. A Monza, Monza e Reggiana uno a uno..."

Commentary

Lower  
Insert

Montreal 1969. Café Italia, in one of the Italian districts of Montreal. People are listening, on the short waves, to the report on the foot-ball games from Italy. It is eleven 'o clock in the morning, that is, five p.m. in Europe. The voices belong to Italian workers, resident in Canada since ten years at least.

Raise

Workers

"Se io dovessi mangiare solamente polenta come mangiavo in Italia, preferisco mangiarla in Italia. Perchè devo andare a emigrare e vivere nella miseria..."

Commentary

Lower  
Insert

Both husband and wife go to work in order to be able to buy their own house and to live relatively at ease.

"I have been lucky, I did not have to wait too long before finding a job"

Question: "Do you plan to stay in Canada?"

Answer: "I think so. When I first came, I was convinced that I would leave after three or four years. But then the longer one stays the more difficult it becomes to leave, to get back the old habits."

"Why did you come over?"

"Well, Canada appealed to me; furthermore, people had sort of told me that one, here, could pick up the dollars in the streets; in reality you've got to sweat to earn them..."

"How were the first few years in Canada?"

"Very tough. There was no help whatsoever; not much friendship on the side of the Canadians."

Raise

Foot-ball game; the voice of a French Can. bishop of It. origin

"Qui sont les Italiens? Je voudrais dire tout de suite que, quand même, en Italie même, où cherchez-vous les Italiens? Alors, c'est la même chose ici..."

Lower  
Insert

Commentary

This French Canadian bishop of Italian origin clarifies for us the opinion of the Canadians about the Italians: Italy is very young as a State and the Italians are not exactly homogeneous as a people. What we see here is, in the 99 per cent of the cases, Southern Italians looking for a job. Canadians; at large know only this side of Italy. So much so that whenever they meet an Italian from the north or from the centre of the country, they say: "Well, that one is not an Italian like all the others". One can feel in these words, benevolent though they might be, the detachment with which the Italian immigrant is received. A long tradition has preceded him; he will have to prove himself different or superior to the standard which is automatically attributed to him.

Raise

A student at Sir George Williams University (of It. Origin)

"I think that one of the contradictions, one of the most important that a boy or a girl from an Italian family faces is the contradiction of values... Here is where the neurosis develops. You have to make a choice. The Italian family as a unit will not compromise, especially the first generation, will absolutely not compromise. They want that particular person to grow up in their particular environment."

A girl, Italo-Canadian, from the suburb of St. Leonard

"My mother agrees fully with what I say. She does not feel that people should be locked up the way they are. And yet she has to recall what people will think and yet we live, we are living according to what people think, not according to how we should live. Like, it is not healthy to live like this, is it? We start getting nervous breakdowns always thinking of what people think..."

"Is it a great strain for you?"

"It is terrible. I used to think that it was wrong; I used to say: how could people be always so conscious of what people think and, yet, I have fallen into that habit, too. Even when I walk I am afraid that people might criticize the way I walk. Or the way I talk or the way I smile, or anything."

### The Italo-Canadian student

"I was born in Campobasso, Central Italy. Ah!, at the moment I do not consider myself Italian as far as culture and values..., I do not consider myself as truly Canadian..."

### The girl

"There is a generation gap nowadays, isn't there? but it is not half as big as in the Italian family. The children of the Italian family and the children of the English family... In the English family, maybe the parents do not want to understand; or they do try and it is the children that do not want. But, in the Italian family, they do not even try, they cannot try, they can't approach their parents about anything. It is out of the question even before you open your mouth. In the Italian family, children are to be seen, not heard."

### The student

"Within the English community you are allowed to expand your social connections. People more or less leave you alone to a certain extent, to develop your own ideas. There is conformity within an English community, but not as stringent as in the Italian community."

### The Boffice family

"I like the English family. It is a house, you go in, you sleep, you eat, you go out to work and that is it. You know... but here, take to-day, for instance, my father is fooling around with me.. (Laughter)

When my father says no, that is it. You do not say why or why not. When a man comes home, he reads the paper while mommy tells the kids what to do..."

Father: "Where?"

Daughter: "In some families"

Father: "Not here."

Daughter: "Not here, I did not say that"

Interviewer: "Who, do you think, is making all the decisions?"  
"Here?" "Ya"

Daughter: "Half and half"

Father: " Oh!"

Daughter: "I think so. If my mother ... my mother does what she wants to do. She does not have to go to my father and say: Daddy, may I do this? Instead, she says: I want to go out, and that is it"

Lower

CommentaryInsert

This family is fairly symbolic of the Canadian mosaic of cultures. The father comes from Naples, the mother is a Montrealer of Italian origin and has got a French education. One of the grandfathers is from northern Italy, the other one from the South. The two daughters are going to an English school, while the kids are going to a French Can. kindergarden. In this family at least three different languages and four dialects are in current use.

Raise

Silence (with view of old and new It. towns and landscapes)

Daughter: "All little towns, old fashioned, except, maybe, Rome"

Father: "I show you, old fashioned"  
(Laughter)

Daughter: "We say: The Italians, look at them, dirty...  
(the father howls)

let me finish. When we talk about the Italians, we say: there must be some intelligent, the ones that go to University, there must be some intelligent people."

Father: "It is not the mentality of everybody, it is the mentality of somebody.."

Daughter: "But, daddy, when mommy was young... you never thought of going out as a girl of 15, 16, but to-day it is about 80 percent of the kids that go out alone... from when you were a teen-ager. Now, it is different."

Father: "It is not different now than it was then"

Daughter: "It is different"

Father: "It is different here, but it is not different back home. At home it is the same thing. It hasnot changed that much, I do not think so."

Grandmother

"Ma mère est née ici et s'est mariée aux Etats; après, elle est venue faire son voyage..."

Lower  
InsertCommentary

"My mother was born here but she married somebody from the United States. Then, they settled in Montreal. They are among the first Italians to settle down in the city".

RaiseGrandmother

"Je ne suis pas pour les séparatistes. Pour moi, dans quelques ans, ça va arriver. Ça va aboutir certain."

Lower

CommentaryInsert

"I am not for the separatists, but in a few years it will come."  
What is the meaning of these words?

Two thirds of the Canadian population speak the English language; they tend to acquire the habits and the mentality of the Americans. The remaining third, almost entirely settled in the province of Quebec (a province as large as the whole of Western Europe and richly endowed with natural resources), speak the French language.

Since ten years, the nationalist movement, who would like to separate Quebec from the rest of the country, has tremendously increased his strength and importance; especially in the schools and universities where a general politicization of the young is taking place very fast. The goals are: cultural nationalism and rejection of many aspects of the North American society.

RaiseFirst daughter

"... to be happy. A nice family, you know"

Second daughter

"As it is now, it is kind of hard to say: I want a nice future, because everything is going wrong, like the riots in the university. It is getting worse."

"Is it getting worse?"

"It is, like several wars all over the place, all over the world"

Father

"Vorrei che fosse sempre com'è oggi....."

LowerCommentaryInsert

Among the other forms of the protest, the boycott of the English language as the major means of communication in the city of Montreal is particularly felt. Montreal, metropolis of Canada with two millions and a half inhabitants, has about 70 per cent of its population who is French-speaking.

RaiseSong

"Mamma non vuole, papà nemmeno, come faremo a fare l'amore"

Mother

"Dans tous les emplois de ma jeunesse, j'ai vu que je pouvais placer mieux mon travail si je savais la langue anglaise"

LowerCommentaryInsert

"My experience has shown me that I could get better jobs if I could use the English language"

For the immigrants as well as for the French Canadians, the knowledge of the English language is an important asset in a career. To-day, under the impact of the so-called "quiet revolution" of the Quebecers, the knowledge of the French language in Montreal has become highly advisable and often indispensable. In other words, the linguistic situation is reaching its climax. Against this background, stand the individual experiences of the immigrants, usually poor people who can barely speak the language of their own country and who normally communicate with one another in a dialect.

Raise

A neapolitan

"... Madonna, io sono venuto qui, magari facesse 'nu poco 'e neve. Se tutto va ben siamo rovinati..."

Lower  
Insert

Commentary

"When I first came, I used to hope that it would snow, so that I could work for a few days. I used to say: If everything goes well, I am ruined; and if everything does not work, I am lost, I will have to go back home"

Raise

The Mion family

Wife: "E' l'illusione di trovare chissà che cosa in America. Era tornato da prigioniero e si era spaventato dei subbugli che c'era-no stati a Trieste"

Husband: "L'ambiente extra-familiare è talmente forte che influenza i ragazzi nella loro maniera..."

Lower  
Insert

Commentary

We thought that in America we could find a radically different world or perhaps we only had foggy ideas about it. What has determined my husband to leave was the after-the war turmoil which he believed to be leading to another war.

My children are not exactly what I thought they could become under my direction. The environment proved to be more important than my efforts. I only half understand them.

Raise

Mother

"Io ho chiesto una volta perchè preferite gli Inglesi..."

Lower  
Insert

Commentary

When I ask my children why they prefer the English kids to the French, they say that it is because the English are more polite, while the French would tend to call them names, spaghetti, macaroni, wop. So they go to the English school where, anyway, most of the kids are Italian. They breed therefore a very special mentality.

RaiseHusband

"Qui, invece, in Canada si sono separati, si sono divisi..."

Lower  
InsertCommentary

The melting pot did not work in Canada as it did in the United States. Here people preserve to a certain extent their national characters. Particularly in Montreal, where the presence of two major national groups, the French and the English, sort of forces the immigrants to preserve part at least of their own national identity.

At any rate, you'd better say that everything is fine or else they will ask you why you came in the first place and why you stay. They do not hesitate a moment to tell you that.

RaiseHusband (It.) and wife (Fr. Can.)

"... je trouvais de l'eau, des lacs et des bois. Pas autre chose. Pas d'amusements;"

"Si on me demandait, je dirais que l'Italien est mieux de se marier avec une Italienne, un Canadien avec une Canadienne, parce que nous n'avons pas les mêmes moeurs..."

Lower  
InsertCommentary

Husband and wife. He is Italian and he has spent three years in the far north, in the Labrador area, on the construction site for a railway line. "It was not so bad", says he, "except that they would treat you as if you were just an animal, work, eat and sleep, nothing else. No fun"

She is French Canadian and has particularly sharp opinions about mixed marriages "If I were to advise somebody, I would say that it is better for an Italian man to marry an Italian woman and that a Canadian man should rather get married with a Canadian woman. You see, we do not have the same habits, the same mentality; life together could prove very trying."

RaiseMrs. Fanucchi

"... diventa incertezza la cosa che in Italia è più pacifica. Ma certo che se questo ragazzo se li merita, gli affibbio un paio di schiaffoni..."

Lower  
InsertCommentary

"Living in Montreal has meant for me questioning all my previous life, my opinions. When I came, I had a ready answer to anything. There is such a bombardment of new ideas from all over the world that I feel it is getting difficult to take any decision.



I feel this particularly hard when it comes to the decisions about the education of my children. Perhaps, the same thing is taking place everywhere, but at home, people must feel some security and protection in the fact that they are so many all together sharing the same experience. Here, we are so isolated.

Child

Raise

"Ti piace l'Italia?" "Sì!"

"Ti piace la gente?" "Anche di più!"

La gente laggiù è più amicale... quando si parla con loro è come fare..."

Lower  
Insert

Commentary

"Do you like Italy?" "Yes!"

"Do you like the people over there?"

"Even more so. Talking with them is like having a real conversation. What strikes me most is the voice of the Italian boys, it sounds so much sweeter to me than that of the children here"

Raise

The Lawrences

"Would you like to spend all your life here?"

"No!"

"Why not?"

"Because there is nothing to keep me here"

"So, why do you stay here?"

"Well, because of the money, you know"

"Is it true that one can make more money here than in Europe?"

"Yes!"

"Quando mio marito si ritira andiamo a vivere in Italia. Abbiamo comprato una casetta a Bardolino..."

Lower  
Insert

Commentary

An Italian lady married to an Englishman from London.

They plan to go and live in Italy when he retires.

Question: "If you should advise a friend, say, from Milan, about coming to Canada, what would you say?"

Answer: "Not to come. It is not worth it. Not any more. Considering the disadvantages. You earn some more money but then you have to put up with the cold, six months of Winter, different habits, no" For him, his wife is all the blessings in life, his fun. On the other hand, he feels that he provides solidity and stability to their marriage.

Raise

Daughter and mother

"Avete amici francesi, inglesi?"

"Sì, è solo che io non so parlare"

Lower

CommentaryInsert

"Do you have English or French friends?"  
 "Yes, but I cannot speak their language. When I go out of this district for shopping, I have to ask my daughter to come along"  
 "What do you think of the life of your mother?"

Raise

"To put it mildly, it is rotten. She would certainly go home right now if it were not for us children."

University of MontrealAn Italo-French Canadian student

"Do côté de mes parents j'ai nettement reçu une éducation québécoise. Mon père a toujours gardé des liens..."

CommentaryLower  
Insert

The French University in Montreal, largest Canadian university with an enrolment of about thirty thousand.  
 Interview with an Italo-Canadian brought up in a French milieu and perfectly integrated in the French Canadian society.  
 His father came to Montreal as a plumber. Working very hard he has been able to send his three children to university.  
 Now, the three of them are doctors"

RaiseMr. Archer, banker

"Forse perchè gli Italiani sono emigranti e come tutti gli emigranti devono muoversi di più..."

CommentaryLower  
Insert

The immigrants, being displaced, have a higher potential of energy and good will. So, they are ready to seize opportunities which the Canadians themselves would not acknowledge or dare to put into action

RaiseThe bishop

"La paroisse italienne a été instituée comme une institution d'accueil, pour recevoir les immigrants..."

CommentaryLower  
Insert

The role played by the Catholic Church among the immigrants. First of all, it is the only organization which can gather around itself the bulk of the immigrants. It provides a certain continuity with the motherland. Often the priests and the nuns are involved with social work, so that they can provide a basic help and some understanding.

The bishop himself admits: "We do more social work than religious work".

The French Canadians are Catholic and the influence of the Church in Quebec has been perhaps the major factor of the preservation of the French language in the province. The Church played therefore a major role in the local politics for a long long time. To-day, its influence is very much reduced among young people, since the Church has been associated with a condition of backwardness.

The Italian immigrant, according to the bishop, feels very deeply a condition of social and cultural inferiority and tends therefore to become americanized as fast as possible in order to reach some sort of psychological security.

As far as the major problem of Canada is concerned, the question of the languages and of the two cultures, the bishop feels that, although people should be free to choose the language for the education of their children, there would be definite advantages for the Latin immigrants to be assimilated by the French milieu.

Raise

#### The French student

"... Mais il est certain qu'on pourrait insister..."

Lower  
Insert

#### Commentary

"The problem of the language in Quebec concerns the English as well as the immigrants. The solution which the Quebecers will choose should apply equally to all of them, without any privileges"

#### St. Leonard

Raise

#### An Italian mother and a Canadian teacher

Mother: "We were so happy here till one year ago. Now, it's changed heretoo." And we are hurt very much."

"So, you plan to go back to Italy?"

"Not to go back to Italy. If the situation won't change, if Quebec separates, we plan to move in another province. It won't be a problem. Now we know the language. And our children speak English and French, they could go everywhere out of Quebec. No problem at all. And we are immigrants, it was very hard time for the first time but not for the second. It will be very easy for the second time.

"Do you think that many Italians..."

"There are many, many Italians who think the same like me"

"You are not particularly attached to Montreal?" "Yes, I was"

Mrs. Dougherty, a Can. teacher

"I don't blame them to want to be as they call it "maîtres chez nous". I don't blame them. But it cannot be done in Canada. Canada is a bilingual country. We are not against, we are kind of proud that the French got up and fight for their rights. But then, don't go around and do the same thing you are reproaching the English of doing. That's what I mean. And, don't push people around in Canada. - je veux parler ma langue - Comment qu'ils sont ces gens-là! - Bonjour ma chère! Now you know what kind of people I mean. C'est pas naturel. C'est bonjour, puis un shake-hand pour moi. You know what I mean. ..."

Commentary

Lower  
Insert

Half French half English, a Montrealer of French origin married to an English Canadian, a true representative of the contradictions of Canada. She has sort of half accepted the values of the English society and is becoming slightly contemptuous of those of the French Canadians. But she can't help reacting passionately, she can't help seeing the point of view of her original family, who does not accept anything short of a French speaking Quebec.

"The immigrants" she says "who come now to Montreal should be informed of the situation, so that they can make<sup>up</sup> their mind whether to stay and accept the French culture or to settle right away elsewhere. But, the ones who are already here should not be forced now to send their children to the French schools. I am a Canadian, this is Canada, isn't it? The fact is... I am not able to be a Québécoise all by myself. Maybe I could, if you give me two, three years..."

The It. Mother

RAISE

"... her girl went to a skating ring with other three girls and they were speaking English. So, a bunch of teenagers, French-speaking, when they heard speak English, they, three, four girls and two, three boys waited outside the ring and they started to hit them. Hit? Hit. One girl, they threw the teeth of one girl out, just because she was English-speaking. That's how the situation is now.

... My boy, he has many friends, English and French... and Chinese too. For him it is no difference.

LOWER  
INSERT

School of St. Leonard - First grade - French lesson

Six classes like this one were privately instituted by Italian families in the suburb of St. Léonard, when the local School Commission decided that all the courses should be given in French instead of the two languages, French and English, as it was before. In this private school the language used is English alone. The following is an example of a French lesson inadequate to give the children a good knowledge of the language of the majority in the province.

Raise

-Est-ce-que c'est le Wig?  
 -La perruque, la perruque  
 -Où est le cadran, mes enfants?  
 -Le cadran est sur le mur.  
 -Où est le gros chât blanc?  
 -Le gros chât blanc est sur le drap.  
 "O Canada, o Canada..."

Lower at the end of the song

Commentary

Insert

Of course, the solution proposed by the nationalist French-Canadians, who think primarily in terms of saving their culture and their language at least in the province of Quebec, is that all teaching should be administered in French with the English language taught in a substantial number of hours per week as a second language, but not as the working language in Montreal and in the province.

According to Mr. Cecchi here interviewed, the immigrants could be led into understanding the position of the French Canadians, but violence and riots should be avoided. In the Fall of 1969 a number of incidents of this nature took place in the suburb of St. Leonard between Italians and Quebecers.

Raise

The student

"Although in Italy the same people probably have some sort of political affiliation, when they come here they want to seclude themselves to financial problems because otherwise they would endanger their security and family unity.

I think that les Québécois are a people separate in North America. The separation should be more of a socialist nature. They are backward economically, socially and politically and as long as they are dominated by the American imperialism and English upper-class they will not be able to achieve their aspirations."

French Can. student

"Il y a quelque chose qui est américain et qui enveloppe aussi bien les Canadiens français que les Canadiens Anglais..."

Lower

Commentary

Insert

"We are French-speaking North-Americans. I do not feel at home in France and I do not feel at home in English Canada.

At the same time I feel close to both of these peoples.

My opinion is that the independence of Quebec is the only means to question also the structure of society as we know it to-day. This is the reason why I am a separatist."

The two boys, although of Italian origin, grew up in different linguistic milieus in the same city, one goes to an English university, the other to a French one. Their conclusions about the future of Quebec are, nevertheless, amazingly similar.

Raise

Choir

"... L'ardor che ci accompagna sarà la fiamma che in noi ci riscaldierà. Salir, sempre salir..... solo ardimento il tuo motto sarà"

Mr. Cecchi

"La totalité des Italiens à Montréal se somme à 160.000...."

Commentary

Lower  
Insert

In Montreal there are to-day 160.000 Italians. The main problem is not so much that of the specialization as that of the recognition of their degrees or diplomas to avoid exploitation.

Marché "Jean Talon" - Market

"What about the Mafia?"

"I think there is some exaggeration. Of course, there is a certain amount of control on the part of... but not so much as they say. Take me, for instance, I have been in business for eight years. Nobody ever bothered me.

If you need money, they will help you, but, soon or later, you will have to pay them back. Dearly.

So, if you need anything, find a way out by yourself. Nobody will disturb you.

Raise

Church and main square of Ville Emard, suburb of Montreal

People singing in the church. Crowd outside.

In the street

"On vous demande: "Vous parlez anglais?". Si c'est un français,..."

Commentary

Lower  
Insert

On the square, the men wait, they keep on waiting, as they always did. At least when the temperature permits it. The women are at home. The skyscrapers of downtown Montreal are only a mile from there. But, on this square, it is like being deep in the countryside, somewhere in the south. The Italians do not form a homogeneous community in Montreal; they split according to the regions they came from, according to the years of their arrival and; particularly in Montreal, according to the language which their children speak.

Raise

Factory

Song.

-Mio marito lavora alle costruzioni.

-E il Suo?

-Université Mc Gill. Pulisce.

Lower

CommentaryInsert

- What is the job of your husband?
- He works in the constructions.
- And your husband's?
- Mc Gill University... he cleans.
- Mine makes chandeliers, since eight years.
- If somebody asked you whether it is better to emigrate to Montreal or to stay at home, what would you suggest?
- If the person is as poor as I, come to Canada.
- It is my opinion, too.
- I am here since twenty years. I am at ease.
- You see, in the south it is not like in the cities of northern Italy; there, people have got enough rooms, a decent job...
- Ya, there are rich people in Italy. But they do not care for us.

RaiseSong

"Mamma non vuole, papà nemmeno, come faremo a fare l'amor"

Young Sicilian woman

"Conoscenze non ce ne ho tante. Così ho fatto due commari e conosco poca gente come questa ragazza. Sto con lei, e dopo si sta in famiglia..."

Lower  
InsertCommentary

In these factories, one can find Italian, Spanish, Greek, Hungarian and French-Canadian women. They understand one another by means of a peculiar language made up of words of Neapolitan dialect, some yiddish expressions, the basic English technical terms and French Canadian slang. It can also change from factory to factory, according to the composition of the personnel.

A few opinions picked up here and there:

- Here, the husbands respect their wives more. They go out less frequently and stay rather at home to watch the tv with them.
- The children grow up better, here; at home, so many die because of infections when they are very small.
- Children are more nervous here.
- There are still many poor people in Italy; I would not go back to live there.

Raise

- Sì, ma adesso non buttate giù l'Italia, perchè....
- C'è molta fame in Italia e ci sono molti poveri.

Barber shop

"Lei faceva già il barbiere?"

"Sì, sì, facevo il barbiere in Italia"

"Di dove è Lei?"

"Io sono meridionale, di Cosenza"

Lower  
Insert

Commentary

The immigrants in Montreal are in competition with the French Canadians for many jobs, usually the lowest paid. Since the French Canadians have now waken up to the reality of their relative backwardness in the North American context, they do not want to accept any compromise concerning labour conditions and wages. The immigrants, on the contrary, are ready to accept a certain amount of economic blackmailing. This is the cause of an underlying antipathy for the immigrants, which would not otherwise exist, given the generous and hospitable disposition of the French Canadians in general. Montreal shows a brilliant façade of glittering skyscrapers, some of the best architecture and town-planning in North America; but, on the other hand, one can easily see blocks after blocks of slums hosting a most colourful population. The so-called "ghetto", where the Mc Gill students have their dwellings, the St. Lawrence Boulevard where one can study the stratification of the waves of immigrants throughout the years, the huge east end home of the Québécois and the lower old city with the hippies and the latest arrivals, the thousands of draft-dodgers from the United States.

Raise

Reception hall - banquet

Silence.

Music "Bella bimba"

Lower when the musician begins  
to talk

Commentary

Insert

Americanisation in the process, favoured in this case by the importance attributed traditionally to the appearances, la "Bella figura".

Raise

Interview with the old granny (ending in the general noise of the hall)

Music.

The owner of the hall

"Con un po' di fortuna ci siamo messi su. Tre fratelli e una sorella, siamo tutta la famiglia. Io prima, loro dopo."

Supermarket

Housewife: "Ah!, io poi sono cuoca; sono stata fino adesso anche al ristorante Magnani, che fanno proprio quella cucina...."

Lower  
Insert

Commentary

The owner of a restaurant, who came with all his family, a cook, a man of fifty, who decided to move to Montreal with wife and five kids. All together, joining forces, building a small capital. Eventually, this means a suburban house, a modest economic success.

Raise



A doctor

"In Italy it is difficult to find a school where you can specialize. We find it easier in North America than in Italy"

A social worker

"Je suis une travailleuse sociale. Je travaille depuis le mois d'août '68..."

Lower  
Insert

Commentary

The biggest problem for an immigrant is the loneliness. In the great North American society there is not much time to take care of the people who feel alone. This is also the other side of the coin. The best support, if not the only one, for the immigrant remains his family.

Raise

The doctor

"The children. They should be Canadians. No doubt about it. Myself, I feel sometimes more Canadian than the real Canadians."

Mr. Archer

"Dopo sessant'anni di vita in Canada, io adesso mi sento veramente canadese..."

Lower  
Insert

Commentary

"After having spent sixty years in Canada, I feel completely Canadian. Nevertheless, I must say, I feel that I am in the same time deeply rooted in the Italian culture. Perhaps, my case is a very special one, since my mother demanded that all of us be instructed in the Italian language and at home we had a remarkable collection of Italian books. My occupation in the banking business requires my presence in Italy regularly every year, so that the ties are not really severed.

Raise

A first communion banquet

Lower after a few seconds  
Insert

Commentary

Politics is not their business. It might be one day their children's or their grand'children's. For them the game is over; their generation is a lost generation. What matters from now on is economic success. This is also one of the principles of American society. The immigrants represent to a large extent the failure of the European society to redress its wrongs and ills. Is the new society really different? It seems that there is something discouraging and hopeless about emigration, if only some economic problems are solved. The social ones come up again in America too, with a much bigger threat due to the much bigger power of that society. Consciousness, in the end, is the stumbling block, here as well as there. Realization of the real needs and means to achieve them.

THE END

Raise