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Foreword

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Foreword

The articles in this special issue of *Italian Canadiana*, edited by Gabriel Niccoli, stem tangentially from the session on *Nostos* ("The Concept of *Nostos* in Italian Canadian Literature") organized and chaired by Niccoli at the 2015 conference of the Canadian Society for Italian Studies (now Canadian Association for Italian Studies) held in Sorrento. The vastly increased number of articles in this volume deal with a wide range of aspects, approaches, and perspectives on the concept of *nostos* in Italian Canadian writings and other representational narratives: from an overview of the many facets of *nostos* to an historical perspective on emigration and personal memories; from its varying patterns in literature—of note the articles dedicated almost exclusively to women writers—to its deployment in the media and in community life. I am particularly pleased about the attention that Italian scholars are giving to Italian Canadian writers as it is a testament to the increasingly important role Italian Canadian literature is playing on the global literary scene.

The topic has also given me an opportunity to reflect on the *nostos* of my community and on my own *nostos* and how it has had a strong impact in my research. In short, it is an endemic element in my personal as well as professional life.

My heartfelt sense of gratitude goes to Gabriel Niccoli, whose vision, perseverance, and long, patient, and determined dedication to this significant topological structure of Italian Canadian literature made possible this special issue of *Italian Canadiana*.

Buona lettura!

Salvatore Bancheri

Editor, *Italian Canadiana*