



President's Annual Message

As we close out the year, it feels important to pause and reflect on the mission of the Society. Since our founding meeting 18 years ago, our focus has remained steadfast: preserving the history, culture, and traditions of Craco.

Through our monthly newsletters, the San Vincenzo feast day gathering, and our publications, we have continued to fulfill that mission. Each of these activities strengthens our shared commitment to honoring Craco's legacy and passing it forward.

This edition of the newsletter highlights our publications, which serve as vital vessels of memory. Every book tells a unique story, offering a window into the richness of Cracotan culture and ensuring that our traditions remain alive for future generations.

While you are relaxing over the holidays you might want to view one of our videos on YouTube at [CRACO SOCIETY - YouTube](#). Among these is the "[Visits Through Time](#)", a remarkable journey through Craco Vecchio that spans 80 years starting in 1929. ■

With best wishes for a joyous Christmas season and happiest New Year.

Joseph Rinaldi

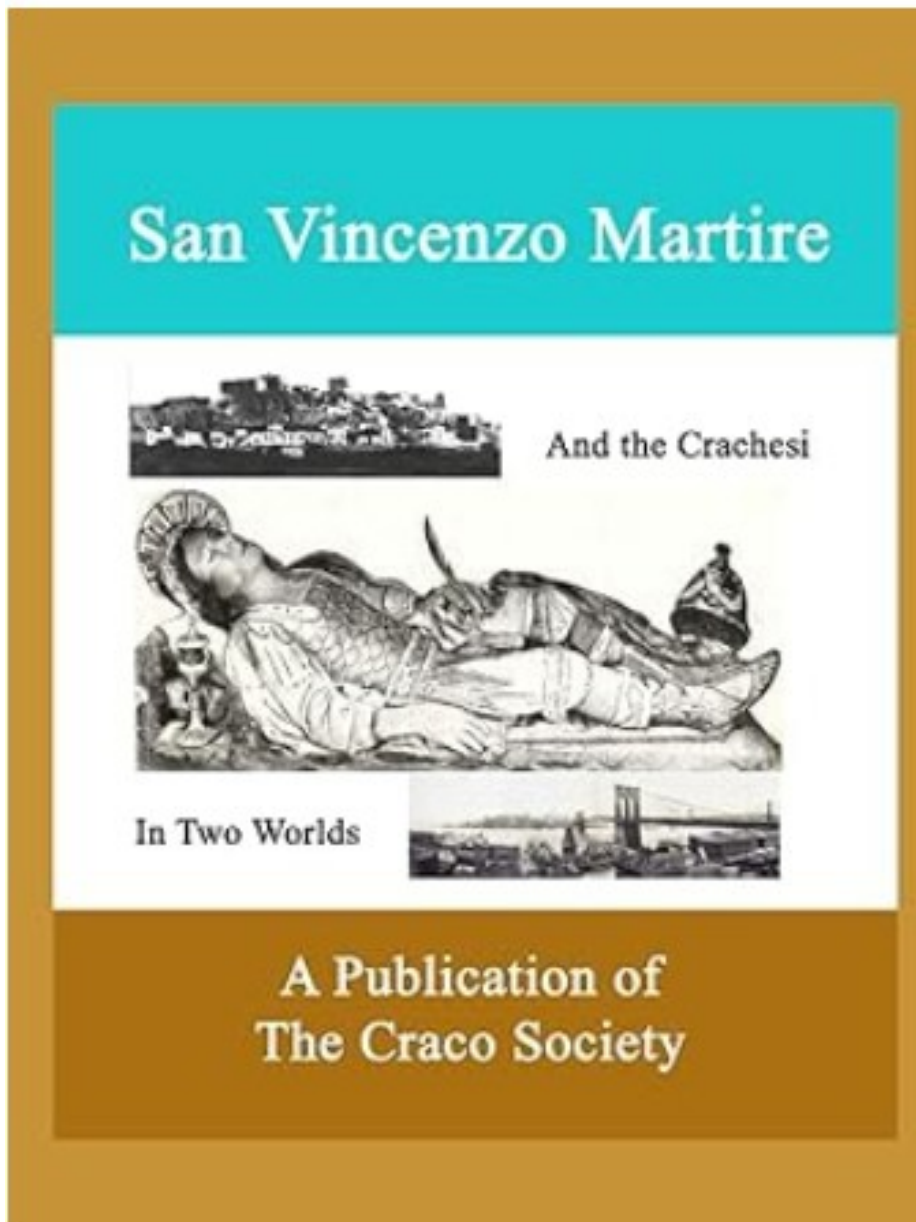


**Homage to the Madonna Della Stella
(Omaggio alla Stella): English language edition**

The Italian version of this booklet was published by the Associazione di Volontariato Colibri in Craco in 2004 telling the history of the Madonna della Stella, who is venerated there. This translation makes the story of the Madonna della Stella available to a North American audience that seeks to understand Crachese history. ■

Order on Amazon [CLICK HERE](#)

Celebrate Your Craco Heritage



This work about San Vincenzo Martire, the patron saint of Craco, in the province of Matera, Basilicata, Italy stemmed from questions about the origin of the saint by members of The Craco Society that came up during a reunion event in 2009 when the Society received a gift of an historic statue of San Vincenzo.

Since then several amazing incidents led to the uncovering of an almost forgotten society formed by Crachesi immigrants who brought their devotion of the saint with them to the US at the end of the 19th century.

Following that, artifacts from this group began to emerge along with additional relics and information about San Vincenzo Martire that is presented in this work.

What emerged from the research into these turned into something showing the unique relationship that existed between the Crachese people and their devotion to San Vincenzo.

The story of San Vincenzo, Martire di Craco, spans two continents and thousands of years and becomes the story of the Crachese continuum and their cultural history starting in Italy and moving to North America.

This book serves as a story for all to learn about a portion of Craco's history and the people who left there to settle in the New World. ■

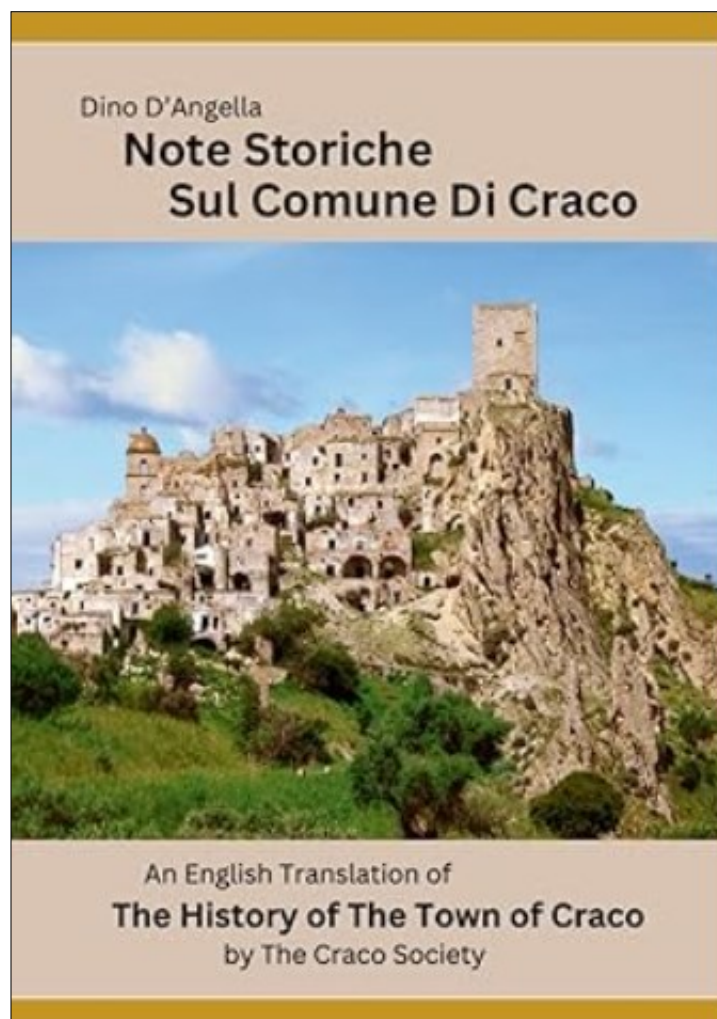
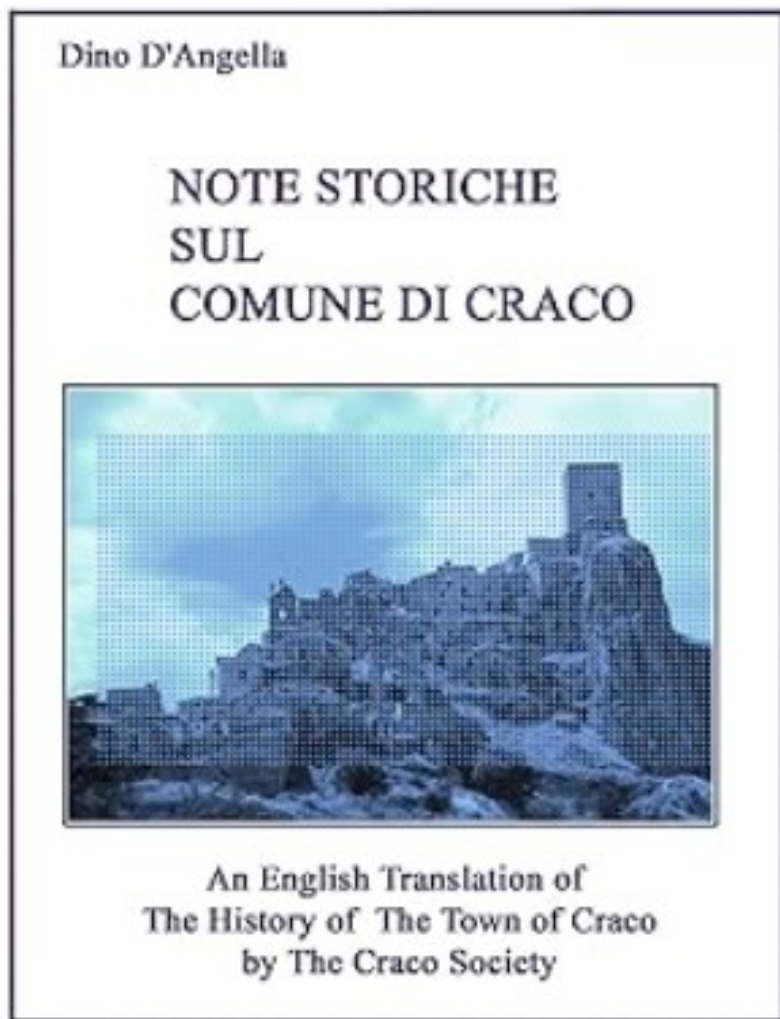
San Vincenzo Martire and the Crachesi in Two Worlds

Hardcover – Large Print, October 25, 2009

Available at Amazon

[Click here](#)

Celebrate the History of Craco



This book is a must have for everyone who has roots in Craco. Originally written in Italian, The Craco Society is extremely pleased to be able to bring The History of the Town of Craco to an English-speaking audience as part of the Society's mission to preserve the history, culture, and traditions of Craco.

With thousands of Crachesi descendants residing in North America, this publication is an important resource for current and future generations. The English version helps to convey the story of Craco to an even larger audience.

Available in soft and hard cover editions it makes a wonderful gift to add to your family's bookshelf. ■

Available at Amazon

Paperback: [Click here](#)

Hard Cover: [Click here](#)

Savor Basilicata in Your Kitchen



FLAVORS OF BASILICATA

Cooking the food of happiness

FEDERAZIONE LUCANA D'AMERICA

This recipe book of traditional Lucanian dishes and cuisine provides cooks with a taste of authentic foods from the Basilicata region of Italy. Many of these recipes are not known to Italian Americans who are now four or more generations removed from their Italian ancestors, that arrived in the US at the turn of the 20th century.

Most families preserved their Nonnas' recipes for years, but in reality, these recipes evolved for various reasons. In cases where the ingredients used in Italy were not available in their new homeland, resourceful and adaptable Nonnas made substitutions with locally available ingredients.

As these recipes were passed down, further modifications occurred due to changing food availability and evolving tastes.

By the mid-20th century, commercial Italian products became widely available, simplifying the preparation of traditional dishes. Homemade pasta, wine, vinegar, and cured meats were increasingly replaced by store-bought alternatives.

The recipes in this publication are presented as originally compiled by the Regione Basilicata, Dipartimento Agricoltura e Sviluppo Rurale, in their publication *Ristorante Lucano nel Mondo*. They were translated in 2007 and published by the Craco Society as *Sapori di Craco* for its members. This publication builds upon that work, enhanced with the assistance of EGO55 of Matera, Italy, to make it more accessible and practical for today's English speaking audience. ■

Buon appetito!



Order on Amazon: [Click here](#)

Notice:

Watch for your 2026 membership dues notice coming soon.

The Society relies on you for support.

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