

2007-11-28

Meeting near the Obelisk of Catania

by Michael Negele



Santo Daniele Spina and Michael Negele

Sometimes my business trips have quite pleasant "side effects" as now and then I succeed in arranging a short personal get-together with a faraway chess friend.



This time a supplier audit led me to Sicily, so I was able to meet with Santo Daniele Spina, a grammar school teacher of classical languages and history at the nearby Acireale, in a bar at the Piazza Duomo.



The pictures show that there was November weather in Catania as well, the cathedral, the city hall and the elephant fountain "disappeared" in the showers and only the short coffee at the bar remained to meet each other.

The [Wikipedia entry](#) on the "Fontana dell'Elefante" offers further photos of the fountain.

PIETRO CARRERA



Santo is one of our most productive historians, certainly he was also responsible for the reprint of Pietro Carrera's *Il Gioco de Gli Scacchi* in 2003 by the "Comune di Militello in Val di Catania" where he contributed a 13-page introduction. This chess book from 1617 was the first book printed in Militello, it was translated into English by W. Lewis in 1822.

Portrait of
Pietro Carrera

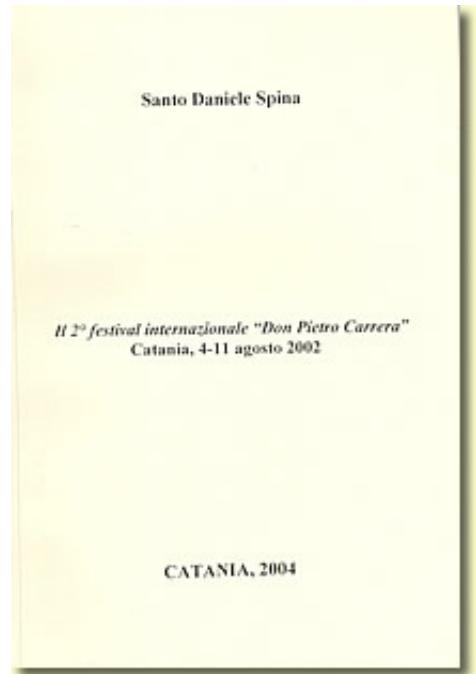
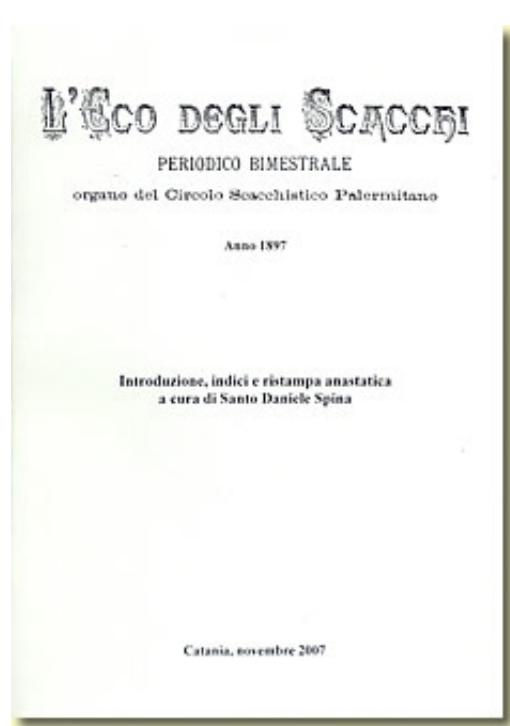


Fig. 32- Ritratto di don Pietro Carrera da G. E. Ortolani, *Biografia degli uomini illustri della Sicilia*, Napoli 1818-1821 (foto Lucio Spina. Biblioteche riunite "Civica e A. Ursino Recupero" per gentile concessione della direttrice Rita Carbonaro).

Fig. 32- Ritratto di don Pietro Carrera da G. E. Ortolani, *Biografia degli uomini illustri della Sicilia*, Napoli 1818-1821 (foto Lucio Spina. Biblioteche riunite "Civica e A. Ursino Recupero" per gentile concessione della direttrice Rita Carbonaro).

I have attached the long lists of the chess and the historical works of our Sicilian member, a few title pages may be regarded as an illustration of his enormous industriousness and expertise.

[Chess Publications](#) (jpg-file, 950 KB) and [Historical Publications](#) (jpg-file, 240 KB) by Santo Daniele Spina.



[Il 2° festival internazionale "Don Pietro Carrera" Catania, 4-11 agosto 2002](#)

Der rätselhafte Obelisk in Catania

BERLIN, 2007

Extracto da: *Kemet*, n. 3, Juli 2007, pp. 64-67

[Der rätselhafte Obelisk in Catania \(Berlin, 2007\)](#)

Abstract

The obelisk in Piazza Duomo in Catania is Egyptianizing: that is to say, it is a monument that imitates Egyptian figurative elements in the imagery and in the regal and divine attributes. Furthermore, it does not exhibit hieroglyphics relating to the cult of Isis, but simply incised designs: above all human and divine figures, placed from top to bottom, which, as they do not constitute hieroglyphic writing in the full sense, serve a purely ornamental purpose. A peculiar characteristic of our obelisk, which tourist guides should highlight, is the untypical and singular octagonal shape, which so far has not been found in any other known obelisks, which have quadrangular section.

I would like to combine this survey with hearty birthday greetings.

(Michael Negele)