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The Australian Administrative Staff College

18 February 1988

JZ:BD

Mr. & Mrs. D. & L. Gustin,
102 South Terrace,
BANKSTOWN, NSW 2200.

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Gustin,

Thank you again for allowing me to visit your home in Bankstown last week. It was a real pleasure to meet you both in person and to be able to see at least some of the memorabilia collected as a result of Mamma Lena's dedicated and selfless service to the Italian and the wider community.

I gave a graphic description of your collection to the Director of the National Museum of Australia and I can assure you that we are all thrilled with your undertaking given in the letter dated 27 December 1987 that you "will be happy ... to hand over ... all the material that is part of our life and memories".

In the meantime I have drafted a brief introduction to be inserted in the pamphlet which you are now compiling to describe the proposed "Our Presence in Australia" exhibition. I am enclosing a copy. Please let me know if it is acceptable to you.

You will note from the letterhead that I am currently away from Canberra but in constant touch with the National Museum's office by telephone and mail. I will be at the above address until 30 March.

With warm regards,

J. Zubrzycki

Jerzy Zubrzycki
Visiting Fellow

Encl

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It is with pleasure that I accept the invitation to provide a brief foreward for this publication which introduces "Our Presence in Australia", an exhibition which portrays the history of Italian immigration to Australia on the occasion of the Bicentennial Celebration.

"Our Presence in Australia" is not just an exhibition. Its organizers, that indefatigable team of distinguished Italio-Australians, namely Dino and "Mamma" Lena Gustin, describe it as a "Museum" in inverted commas. This particular "Museum" is to be more than a collection of artefacts, memorabilia, photographs and documents. "Our Presence in Australia" is a testimony of the spirit and hard work of the Italian pioneers in the nineteenth century and the canefields of the first three decades of this century, tobacco and citrus growers, workers in the terazzo and concrete building trades, in the arts and entertainment industry and many, many other fields of cultural endeavour in Australia.

I congratulate the organizers of "Our Presence in Australia" and the very many persons who donated their artefacts and documents or gave them on loan. As an adviser on ethnic collections to the National Museum of Australia, I strongly support the concept and timing of "Our Presence in Australia" for it represents a recognition of the fact that the rich traditions of our migrant and refugee communities are fundamental components of Australia's developing heritage and its new, multicultural nationhood.

Zubrzycki

(Professor) Jerzy Zubrzycki

17 February 1988