

## INTRODUCTION

Calamandrei

During Italy's long struggle for justice and liberty, Piero Calamandrei fought valiantly, steadfastly, unassumingly. He was not among those who left Italy to breathe the free air of democracy and receive the plaudits and sympathy due an exile or a martyr for a good cause. Calamandrei's love for Tuscany made him unwilling to desert his country even if only in the physical sense during her trial and subjugation. Instead he remained in Florence, practiced law, and when the Fascists permitted, continued to teach at the University, where he was a living symbol of integrity and anti-Fascism for those students who sought and needed some other ideal than that offered by Mussolini and his followers. In his own words, spoken to one of the present translators during the Fascist terror of 1939, "Italy is greater than Fascism and scholars have a common country which recognizes no frontiers."

During the last pre-war years the Fascist government decided to rewrite the antiquated civil code, and Calamandrei became the leader of a small group of jurists who fought to maintain in the new code those principles of Roman law which are among the basic foundations of western European civilization. Over the opposition of the Germanophile Fascists who wanted to copy the Nazi code, these principles were maintained. If justice was thwarted in Italy all too often by political pressure and intrigue, Calamandrei and his friends saw to it that the principles of justice remained the basis of Italian law, the heritage of a glorious tradition and a pledge for a better future.

Piero Calamandrei is now the Rector of the University of Florence. He is also the editor of a magazine, Il Ponte (The Bridge), which he hopes will serve as a bridge of communication between Italy and the free world. Many

of the essays and articles included in this book are taken from Il Ponte and it is at the request of Calamandrei that it is called The Bridge to a Free World.

In the midst of the hunger, cold and other privations of this post-war period in Italy Calamandrei has made only one personal request and that many times--for books. This type of Italian literally thirsts for knowledge of what is going on and what is being thought and planned in the democratic world. It may interest purchasers of this book to know that the part of its cost usually going to royalties will be used as a fund for the purchase of books for the University of Florence to help satisfy that thirst.

As this page is being written the campaign for Italy's Constitutional Assembly is under way. Calamandrei heads the list of candidates of the Action party in Florence. If he is elected to the Constitutional Assembly he will have the opportunity to make a direct contribution to the formation of Italy's new Constitution.

John Clarke Adams

Helen Hendricks

Martha Lou Lemmon

Edith Wall