

Sando Bologna

1915 -

"Columbus was self-taught, including Latin to read maps. I'm following in his steps in self-education, and my goal every day is to keep learning"

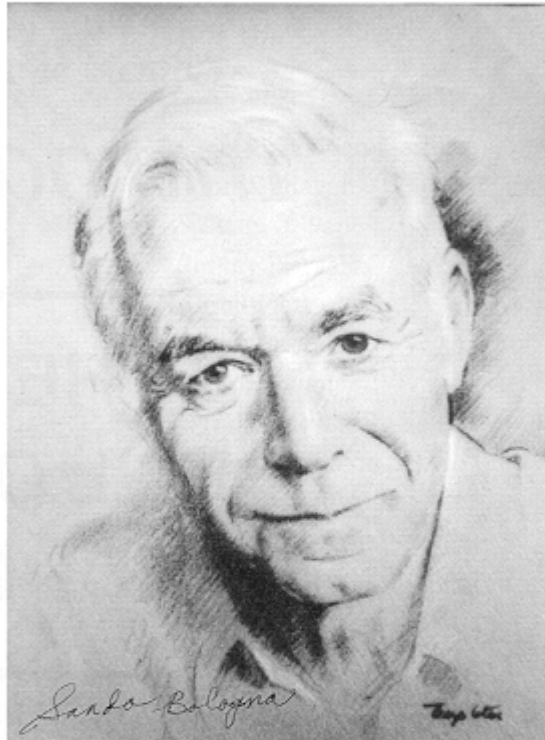
- Sando Bologna

Newspaper reporter, promoter of Italian culture, traveler and local historian, Santo (Sando) Bologna was born in Portland, Connecticut on January 20, 1915. Forty days later, his parents, Rosario and Teresa, both natives of Sicily, moved to Waterbury. Sando grew up in Waterbury and has remained in the city for his entire life. He graduated from Driggs Grammar School and Wilby High School. He began his career as a reporter in 1935 writing for the Waterbury Republican. In 1941, he transferred to the Waterbury-American where he worked until 1970 when he became a feature writer for The Sunday Magazine of the Waterbury Republican. After a fifty year career, he retired from the Waterbury papers on September 5, 1980, but has continued to work as a freelance writer.

Through the years many of his articles have shed light on the cultural landscape and history of the town that he loved: Waterbury, Connecticut. He wrote pieces describing Waterbury landmarks and architectural gems. The unique characteristics of Waterbury's City Hall designed by Cass Gilbert or the significance of the Benjamin Franklin statue and its creator, Paul Wayland Bartlett, were typical subjects pursued by Bologna. His attention to detail and quest for a unique slant on a topic are reflected in pieces he did on the gargoyles of Waterbury and a walking tour of downtown Waterbury. Throughout the 1970s and 1980s his writing contributions emphasized the creative ability of Waterburians.

In addition, Bologna wrote many columns on his trips to interesting areas. A world traveler, Bologna was a charter member and former treasurer of the Society of American Travel Writers. He also served on the Bicentennial World Tour Committee, addressing Italian journalists in Rome during 1975. His writings appeared in such publications as The Sunday Magazine, Yankee, Travel Magazine, and Modern Maturity. Other articles on travel, Italian culture and local history have appeared in the New York Times, Christian Science Monitor, Chicago Tribune, Washington Post, and Boston Globe. As Bologna has pointed out, "One can have a happy career in journalism in a small city as Waterbury and still see much of the world and meet many interesting people."

Bologna has had a strong and positive impact on the quality of life in Waterbury. He was a founder and former officer of the Waterbury Jaycees, director of the Waterbury Boys Club, organizer and first president of the Sienna Music Scholarship Committee, incorporator of the YMCA and a member of Circola Dante, Sons of Italy, the National Italian American Foundation and the American



Italian Historical Society.

In 1981, Bologna was the recipient of the Ciro P. Lanza Award of the Lega Siciliana Social Club. The award was presented to an individual of Sicilian ancestry living in the greater Waterbury area who has demonstrated a spirit of service in the club and in the community. The love of both his hometown and ancestry was recognized when he was named Italian Mayor-for-the-Day on October 12, 1989.

During his long writing career, Bologna often focused on two of his passions: the lives of Italian-Americans in Waterbury and the cultural history of the city. He later combined these two interests in his books: *The Italians of Waterbury*, an illustrated history, published in 1993; and *Growing Up Italian and American in Waterbury*, an oral history, co-authored by Richard M. Marano and published in 1997. In speaking of his illustrated history, Bologna commented, "I love Waterbury and I love the Italian people. My ultimate hope is that the book will bring a ray of sunshine to Waterbury."