



RUGGERO GUARINI

BOOK OF WHIMSIES 2008

Imaginary Letters

FISIMARIO 2008

Lettere immaginarie

(2009), PAGES 387

**A year of news and current affairs
transfigured into the marvellous, ironic prose
of one of the sharpest witnesses of our time**

For years Ruggero Guarini has been an observer of current affairs. A witty and humorous journalist, an acute and highly educated writer, he chronicles the events of the day in a personal style, in the form of an imaginary letter written by “a ghost of the past” to a prominent figure of the present. A rare ensemble, combining universal curiosity, encyclopedic culture, lucid sharpness, polemic ardour and literary shrewdness.



BOOK OF NEAPOLITAN WHIMSIES

FISIMARIO NAPOLETANO

(2007), PAGES 443

Prefaces by Raffaele La Capria and Francesco Durante

“*Book of Whimsies* is a good title for this collection of brief, gentle, ironical interventions, because Guarini has got quite a lot of them” (Raffaele La Capria). The author’s intellectual restlessness makes these ‘whimsies’ authentic cultural scoops, arising from an endless curiosity nurtured by unconventional readings, fulminating quotations and little-known episodes and anecdotes. The pretext for this book is Naples: a Naples which is encountered outside its habitual context, and observed from an unusual and ever-surprising standpoint.

The book deals with a variety of themes, from arts to showbiz, from archaeology to mythology; historical events often provide occasion for an original and fruitful dialogue between past and present. Some folkloristic aspects of Neapolitan customs, like the origin of the *mossa*, [...] are also investigated. This heterogeneous and sometimes unconventional book reflects the character of the author, revealing his restlessness, his rebellion against hypocrisy and conformism.

Ruggero Guarini was born in Naples in 1931 and has been living in Rome since 1958. At eighteen, he became a member of the Italian Communist Party, but withdrew from it after the events of Hungary. Guarini has always worked in newspapers. His works include: the novels *Parodia*, Ricci 1973 and *Yao*, Newton & Compton 1995; the pamphlet *Compagni ancora uno sforzo, dimenticare Togliatti*, Rizzoli 1989; the collections of articles and essays *Punto e a capo*, Garzanti 1977; *Questo sì, quello no*, Armando 1989 and *Il pensiero quotidiano*, Biblioteca universale Rizzoli 1993; a translation of Basile’s *Cunto de li cunti*, Adelphi 1994; the short poem *Quando bisbiglio la parola Dio*, Leonardo 1991 and the poetry collection *Un pizzico sulla mano*, Il notes magico 2006.

