

*Italian Government Commissioner General's Office
2005 World Exposition – Aichi, Japan*



*“Rioni” Flag Wavers of Cori
(since 1966)*

The **“SBANDIERATORI DEI RIONI DI CORI”** (*“RIONI” Flag-Throwers of Cori - Italy*), made its first appearance in the *“Carosello storico dei Rioni”*, an important revival festival of the XVI century celebrated in Cori, one of the most ancient cities in Italy. Elegance and grace are the qualities that distinguish this troupe’s performances from all other Italian flag wavers. The troupe’s members have inherited these characteristics from the flag-throwers, who used to wave and throw flags colored according to the quarters or the noble families of the city.

Through years of experience, the troupe **“SBANDIERATORI DEI RIONI DI CORI”** has perfected the art of flag-throwing, reaching new heights of excellence and professionalism. Its aim is to amaze and to fascinate people around the world, who aren’t familiar with this art form. The flag-throwers, who are much like acrobats, are accompanied by drum and trumpet musicians of the **“FANFARRA ANTIQUA”** renaissance fanfare (Renaissance age band). They perform in open space like squares, or enclosed ones like theatres. Often participating in parades, they masterfully alternate the spectacular launch of flags with acrobatics.

Amongst the group’s many achievements, the most important and historical one is its performance in the *Opening Ceremony at the XXIV OLYMPIC GAMES* in Seoul (South Korea), where it assumed the role of official ambassador of the Italian folk traditions.





Cori is world renown for the ancient art of how to use the flag in battle. This form of art flourished and became apart of the city's social life and tradition. Three young skilled flag-wavers, carrying flags decorated with the colourful blazons of the cities of Rome and Cori, would be summoned by the local government to participate in the *Ludi* (competition) in the *Rione Testaccio* (old quarter) of Rome. This custom has been kept alive across the centuries until nowadays.

The art of flag-throwing was hence developed for political and military purposes. The bravest man, of noble lineage, would be appointed as the official flag bearer. Using flags, which symbolise royalty or noble families, the flag bearer would lead the troops into battle and communicate orders to the various battalions of soldiers. Each movement of the flag initially represented a secret military code, but the beauty of these movements transformed this military skill into an art form practiced by the nobility.

The most outstanding events of Flag Wavers of Cori:

1988 SEOUL INTERNATIONAL FOLKLORE FESTIVAL, included in the *OLYMPIC ARTS FESTIVAL* of the 24th Olympic Games, SOUTH KOREA;

CINEMA ITALIAN STYLE, *Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences*, Hollywood Los Angeles (California), U.S.A.

INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL PROGRAM, Epcot Center – WALT DISNEY WORLD, Orlando (Florida), U.S.A.;

COLUMBUS DAY, New York, U.S.A.

"Ameriflora '92", **AMERICA'S CELEBRATION OF DISCOVERY**, Columbus (Ohio), U.S.A.;

WORLD EXPO '85, Tsukuba, JAPAN

CONCERT FOR LIFE AND PEACE, Christmas 2003 from Bethlehem (PALESTINE) and Jerusalem (ISRAEL)

INTERNATIONAL TOURISM FAIR, Paris, FRANCE.

They took part in some of the most important **FESTIVALS** and **World Manifestations** in Canada, China, Cuba, Brazil, Virgin Island, Bahamas, Japan, Holland, France, Porto Rico, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Spain, Taiwan, Argentina, Colombia, Poland, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Israel, Luxemburg, Germany, Algeria, South Korea, Belgium, Hungary, Austria, Lithuania.

