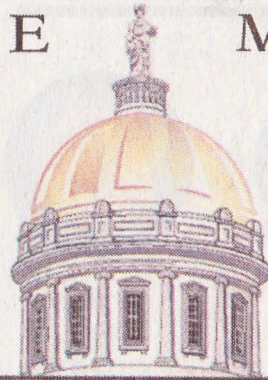


THE BARRE MONTPELIER

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## Visiting author seeking Italy in Barre

By **DAVID DELCORE**  
STAFF WRITER

BARRE — Ellis Island was understandably the first stop on a tour that will take Italian author Paolo Battaglia across the country and back again in his quest to find Italy in “small-town USA.”

Not surprisingly, Barre will be stop No. 2 on the trip that will span 35 days, cover 6,000 miles and, if all goes well, provide the footage for a documentary about small towns that were profoundly affected by the wave of Italian immigrants who

arrived at Ellis Island in the early 20th century.

Small towns just like Barre, where, if Battaglia has any doubts about the lasting impression made by those who left his country more than a century ago and eventually settled in central Vermont, he need only flip through the local phone book or gaze up at the towering statue of the Italian stonemason that will greet him when he arrives in the Granite City today.

The Italian-American Monument in Dente Park may be the most visible example of Barre

celebrating an important piece of its multicultural heritage, but it isn't the only one. The community is home to the Società di Mutuo Soccorso — the Mutuo Club on Beckley Street — and pitched in to preserve the Old Labor Hall on Granite Street. The latter building, which was built by Italian immigrants aligned with the Socialist Labor Party, was acquired and restored by the Barre Historical Society and

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