

Acknowledgments

This collection of articles owes its existence to many wonderful people, foremost among them the members of the Club Giuliano-Dalmato of Toronto who generously gave of their time and of themselves to tell me and my students their personal stories of exile and emigration, suffering and survival, and, of course, their profound appreciation to Canada for the safety and opportunities it offered them. In so doing, they put a human face on a tragic moment in history and taught us an important lesson in courage, fortitude, and determination.

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only to discover the existence of this diasporic community in Toronto, but also to become involved with it and then with the larger community of Julian-Dalmatians in Canada and on five different continents. That first meeting marked the start of a journey that, over the decades, led me to meet many wonderful Julian-Dalmatians in Canada, the United States, Italy, South Africa, Australia and to undertake a variety of rewarding work of which this book is only the most recent example.

At the deepest roots of all this work, however, stand my late father, Erich Eisenbichler (1920–2014), and my mother, Giovanna “Ivetta” Martinolich, whose profound love for Lussinpiccolo (today, Mali Lošinj), the town of our birth, and the wonderful stories they daily told me about its people and our family ensured that I would grow up to be a *vero lussignan*, even as I became a proud Canadian.

To all, my most sincere thanks.

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