

# Angelo Paratico

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An Italian in Asia



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**Journalist, entrepreneur and writer**

I shall be your mirror...without ideologies, beyond political parties

*"Italy is at a crossroad. On one side there is rebirth and on the other a dissolution. Both paths were taken in the past centuries and it is difficult to understand which way we are going now, up or down?"*

*"But we'll struggle for aggregation and not for disintegration, for maintenance and not for destruction. What will our weapons be? Books, and the practical knowledge of things, called experience. Intellectual honesty as well as materialism. Respect and kindness. Love which will enlighten the World."*



## About me ...

I was born on 23 May 1955 at Turbigo near Milan. My father was its Mayor for 15 consecutive years, from 1960 until 1975. I am married to Donatella Oliboni, from Verona. I have two children, and they are already grown up and independent. I am a Roman Catholic.

I studied textile chemistry at Busto Arsizio and then I started university, studying Medicine but I quit after two years. After my military service – armored division "Ariete", in Friuli – I began working in the textile industry.



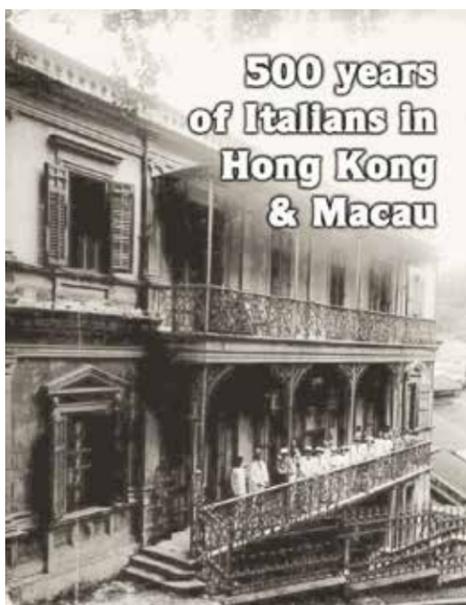
Candiani Spa

## Working experience

In 1981 I left the world of textile factories and started to sell textile machinery produced by a company based in Schio, near Vicenza, taking care of their sales in the Far East and in China, which at that time was opening, after the Cultural Revolution.

Then, in 1983 I moved to Hong Kong, switching to work for Itex Ltd., a locally registered trading firm. I was selling dyeing and finishing machinery, then in 1988 I joined a company with a Swiss partner. Business declined in 1989, after the Tiananmen Square crackdown, which halted all trade.

I then represented, worldwide, a company which made indigo dyeing lines. Lastly, I changed field once again, this time to represent an Italian factory producing denim fabric, a world leader, Candiani SpA of Robecchetto.



## My activities

### Books

Over the years I have published several books on the subject of history as well as novels, with political and scientific angles, both in Italian and English. My latest ones are:

**"Five Centuries of Italians in Hong Kong and Macau. 1513-2013"**. A profile of the Italian presence in Hong Kong and Macau during the last five centuries, with a presentation written by the then President of Italy, Giorgio Napolitano. It was published in English, Italian and Chinese.

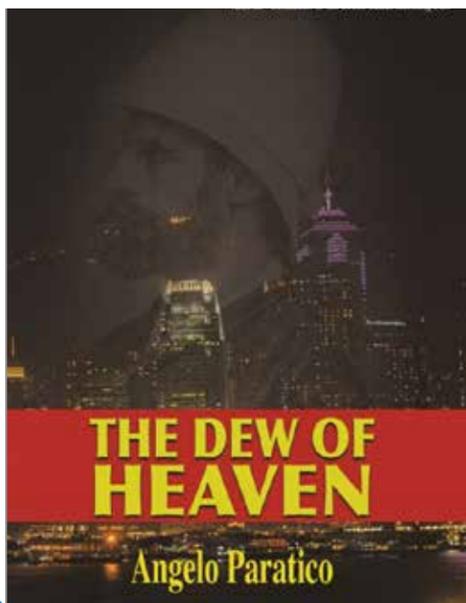
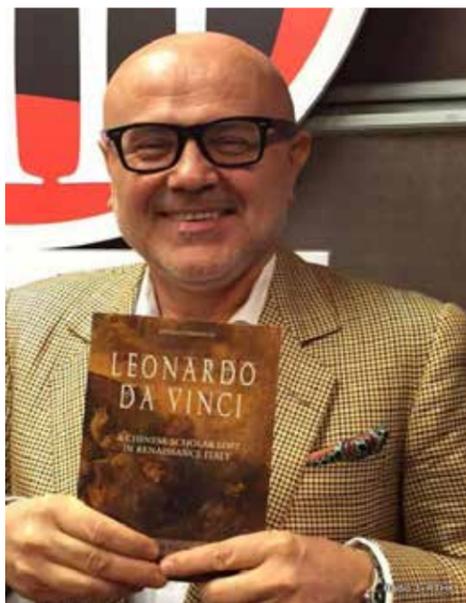
A translation from Latin to English of the **"Nero's Encomium"** by Girolamo Cardano (1501-1577?). It was first published in 1562.

**"Ben"** a novel based on the English secret service involvement in the killing of Benito Mussolini. It was published by Mursia, Milan, in 2010.

A biography dedicated to the mysterious mother of **Leonardo Da Vinci**, Caterina, published in English, Italian and Korean.

**"The Dew of Heaven"** an historical novel staged in Hong Kong, Mongolia and Italy. It is a saga of an Italian family in the East. It was printed by Cactus Moon, a publisher based in Tempe, Arizona, USA.

My next book will be out in a couple of months, a translation from Italian to English of a chapter of the biography of Giuseppe Salvaio Raggi, who in 1900 was the Italian Minister in Peking during the Boxer war. Hollywood produced in 1964 a film about this historical episode, with David Niven, Charlton Heston and Ava Gardner.



Paratico's castle ruins (Italy - BS), Dante was there.



With Alastair Campbell (Tony Blair's ex adviser) during a presentation in the same bookstore in Hong Kong.

### Journalism

My passion for books and travel lead me to write for several newspapers and magazines, both in Italian and English.

I have written on the Borghese and for several years, publishing with the **Secolo d'Italia**, where I have a weekly column entitled "Minima Orientalia"; on the Corriere della Sera for the blog **"La Nostra Storia"** by Dino Messina. I also write for the **South China Morning Post** and for my two blogs:

<https://beyondthirtynine.com> e  
<https://www.angeloparatico.com>

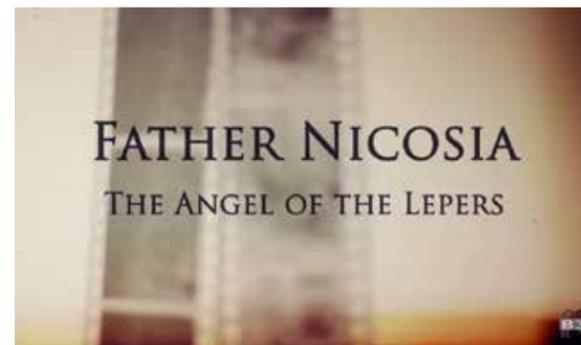
### Film

In 2014 I was the co-director with Ciriaco Offeddu of a movie titled "Father Gaetano Nicosia. The Angel of the Lepers". Father Nicosia died recently in Hong Kong at the age of 103, a Sicilian who had dedicated his life to cure the lepers and the needy of Macau.

Here is the YouTube link:  
<https://youtu.be/qzw7q3tzzYE>



Searching for Christ' lost Gospel, in Ladak



Film on Father Gaetano Nicosia

## With the local Italian community

I have been the representative of CTIM (For Italians living abroad) in charge of the Far East for several years, and for 11 years the vice president of the local Dante Alighieri Society. I am an honorary member of the Fogolar Furlan and the association of the Veronesi in China. For 3 years I have been the vice president of "Bellissima Italia", a non-profit organization made up of Hongkongese and Italians to promote the art and culture of Italy in Hong Kong.

In 2001 I was awarded by President Ciampi the order of the Star of Italy.



*On the stage with the chief executive of Hong Kong, Mdm. Carrie Lam.*



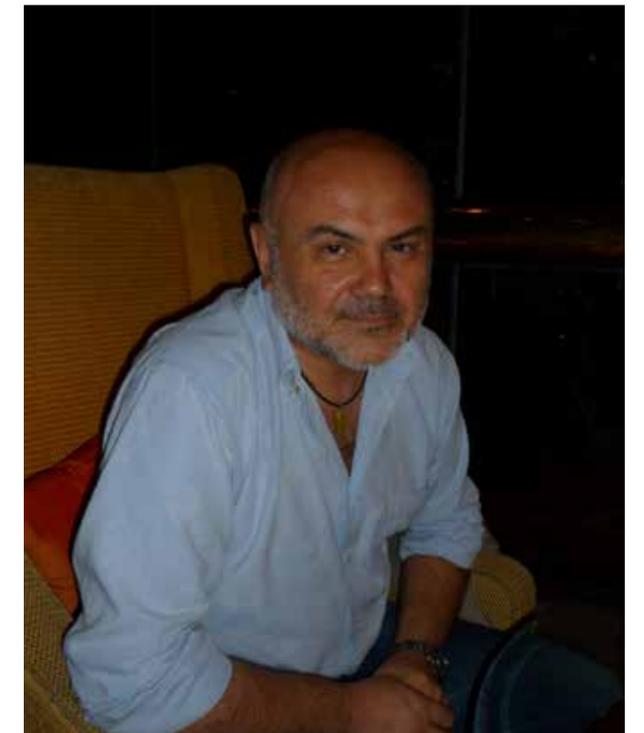
*Star of Italy award*

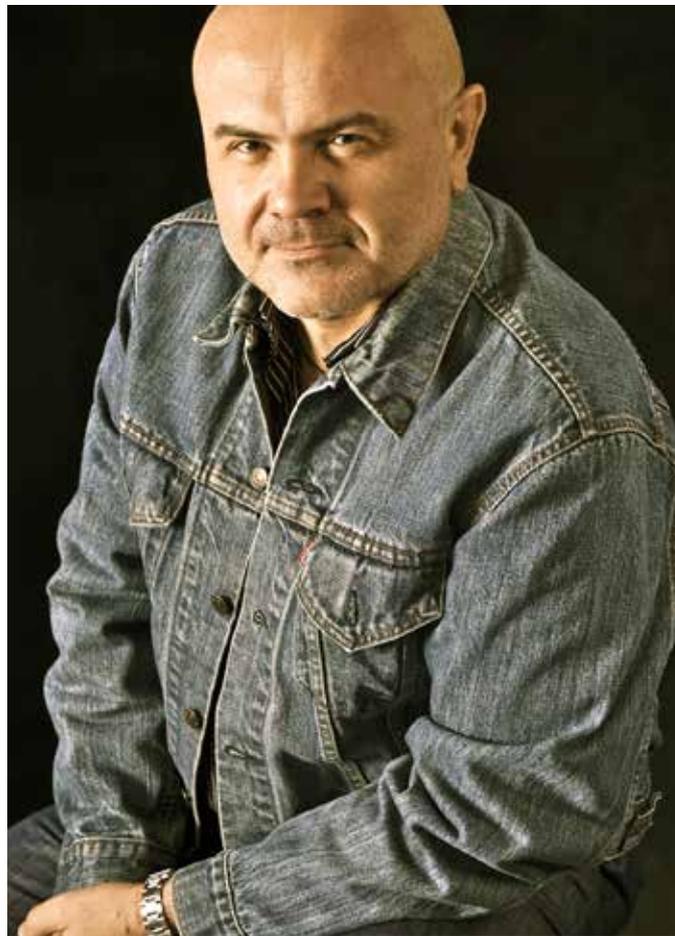


*With Stefania Giannini, ex Italian Ministry of Education and my wife Donatella*

## My hobbies

I collect ancient books and ancient oriental ceramics. I read and write, and I try to help all the people who ask me to do so.





## **Angelo Paratico**

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