Interferenze Lessicali
ITALIANO – INGLESE
Canadian Cataloguing in Publication Data

Frescura, Marina Sassu, 1945-  
Interferenze lessicali italiano-inglese

Includes index.  
ISBN 0-8020-6553-8

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PC1445.F74 1984  
458.2'421  
C84-098159-7

The author wishes to express her gratitude to Harper and Row, Publishers, Inc. for permission to reproduce a passage from *America, when you and I were young*, by Luigi Barzini, and to Disegnatori Riuniti, Agenzia Giornalistica, Milano, for permission to reproduce the cartoons that appear in this book.
Another pitfall to avoid was the wrong use of an English word which, while almost identical to an Italian word, had a different meaning. There are many: "to support" does not mean "sopportare"; "inclined" does not mean "inclinato"; "fastidious" does not mean "fastidioso"; "ruffian" is not "ruffiano"; "to annoy" is not the same as "annoiare"; "to demand" does not mean "domandare"; et cetera. The confusion could occasionally be embarrassing. One night Beniamino Gigli and I happened to be sitting in a gilded box at the Metropolitan, surrounded by dignified matrons covered with brocade and diamonds, his devoted admirers. He was in evening clothes because he was not singing but had come to watch the performance. One of the ladies tapped his arm with her fan and asked graciously: "How do you feel tonight, Signor Gigli?" ... He cleared his throat and said: "Not very well, I am a little constipated". The ladies looked at him and at each other with astonished horror. I hurried to explain that by "constipated" he did not mean what they thought but only that he had a slight cold.