While American mathematicians and physicists are familiar with the Levi-Civita symbol in tensor calculus, few are likely to know his personal history (let alone the correct pronunciation of his name). This talk considers the historical framework for the events leading up to the 1931 oath of allegiance to the Fascist government, which all of Italy’s university professors were required to sign, and how the Roman mathematician Tullio Levi-Civita and Turin’s professor of anatomy Giuseppe Levi responded. (Received August 28, 2013)