

With this double-issue the publication of the Journal by Publisher "Tilgher-Genova" comes to an end. In such occasions, there is the risk of being rhetorical. I will try to avoid it. Just let me mention how in 1996, when the Journal docked at Genova, its conditions were turning for the worse (the impact factor was almost annihilated, reduced to a thin 0.03). Tilgher provided the Journal with a quality typographical format, a meticulous care for details, a regular frequency of publication and a virtual existence in the then rising world of the Internet. In three years the impact factor rose to 0.5.

Internationalization, begun in the 1980s by Giuseppe Sermoni with the transformation from an Italian into a bilingual journal, ripens after 1996, when English becomes the only language of articles and, thanks to the Tilgher website, far Countries are reached. The Journal hosts contributions from not only all Europe and the United States, but also from Russia, Turkey, China, Mexico, India, Pakistan, Canada, Japan, Chile, Israel, Iran, Saudi Arabia.

Today an important chapter in the long, almost hundred-year-old, journey of the Journal arrives to its end. And it seemed right to stress it by publishing a selection of some of the most significant articles of the "Tilgher period". The choice, arbitrary and therefore questionable, has deliberately followed a definite exclusion criterion: in order to avoid bias in the selection, none of the editors' articles has been considered. The anthology, just one of the many possible, intends to ideally highlight, through external contributors' papers, some aspects that have characterized the Journal in these last fifteen years. Articles by N.J. Berrill and B. Goodwin, G. Preparata, F. Scudo, V. Voeikov, G. Cavallo *et al.*, A. Pirondini and N. Marmioli are repropounded. Just a few comments.

Berrill and Goodwin. The Journal, which in the 1980s was the mouthpiece of the Structuralism in Biology (of which Goodwin was a leading exponent), has continued in these 15 years to search for an overcoming of the genocentric hypersimplifications.

Preparata. The Journal, due to its interdisciplinary attitude, has always been attentive to any attempts to link different scientific fields, such as that of building a bridge between Physics and Biology through Quantum Electrodynamics.

Scudo. The theory of evolution has continued to be a central issue of these 15 years' contributions. Among the several authors who wrote about it, we want to mention Franco Scudo, a qualified scholar of the subject and a sharp critic.

Voeikov. The journal also accomplished the task of diffusing in Italy the knowledge of advanced, and sometimes controversial, research avenues. It is the case of biophotonics, stemmed from the pioneering experiments of A. Gurwitsch in the Russia of the 1940s.

Cavallo. A theoretical Biology journal continuously risks a speculative drift and the coming apart from the "hot" topics of today's Biology. When the "mad cow" entered the television sets and the laboratories, the Journal (in the person of the then editor-in-chief Silvano Scannerini, whom we remember with affection) asked an eminent student, Giorgio Cavallo, to write a review on the topic.

Pirondini and Marmioli. As a response to the overexcited and sometimes blaring debates on biotechnologies, it was decided to open a new section called "Biotech Forum", in which authors of different positions could present, in a quiet and rigorous round table, their viewpoints on the issues.

Of course, several other authors would have equally deserved a mention in this concise anthology, and we can only apologise to them for not being able to do it.

So, the Tilgher chapter closes. Best wishes to the Journal, which will continue its journey with Publisher Serra (www.libraweb.it), and warm thanks to Tilgher, which accompanied with affection the Journal in these 15 years. Without rhetoric.

Silvano Traverso