

The centenary of the Institute of Physiology (1912-2012) and my forty four years at the Institute

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For forty four years, I have been involved in and have witnessed many events in the Institute and I have many memories of activities, episodes, anecdotes throughout that period. My only regret is that I did not keep a daily record of what happened. Soon, all the Medical School will be relocated. Collecting and publishing memories also has the significance of maintaining the memory of the Institute and more specifically of the library.

Many have described the great attachment of professor Moruzzi to books (see Moruzzi, 2010) and the great interest and enthusiasm he dedicated to the library of the Institute. Arriving at the Institute as secretary to the director in July 1953, one of my first duties was to take care of the library, then consisting of two rooms (see Mammini and Iannucci, this volume). I was in charge of the book loan supervision, of the journals subscription renewal, of purchasing



Fig. 1. - The Pisa Institute of Physiology about the time I was appointed secretary to Professor Moruzzi.

the missing volumes from foreign countries or from antiquarians, and of taking care of the book binding. All these duties were done with the help of one of the assistants of the “*Professore*”. It was very emotional for me to spend some hours of my daily work in those rooms, in close contact with the writings of famous scholars and researchers.

With time, the library grew bigger finally occupying six rooms on the second floor of the Institute and it was then necessary to hire a full time librarian. One of these rooms was called the “*Aducco*” from the name of Vittorio Aducco, a former director of the Institute and editor of *Archives Italiennes de Biologie*. That room was a privileged place to study for students and young researchers. It was also used for scientific and organizational meetings, thus marking some of the most significant moments in the Institute’s life.

After Professor Moruzzi passed away, entering in any room of the library and particularly entering in his personal office (an integral part of the library with some of the oldest books in the collection) is for me the occasion of strong feelings. I still hear the echo of his voice and feel the gentle emotion of the absence of a very special person. All of his col-

laborators have learned much from him, the respect for nature, for other people, for ourselves. I will always be very grateful to Professor Moruzzi for giving me the opportunity to spend forty four years of my working life at the Institute of Physiology. I hope that, in spite of the changing times, it will be possible to preserve the trace and the memories of the site of a very special school where many worked hard to succeed in the difficult task of mediating between the past and the future.

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References

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