

The tradition of *AIB studi* and its *lector in fabula*

The task of the scientific direction of *AIB studi*, that the National Executive Committee of Association has entrusted to us, has triggered a ‘movement of the soul’ – we could say – rich in a variety of ‘colorful’ feelings, ranging from gratitude for trust and opportunity given to us up to the sense of responsibility that almost borders on fear, in the awareness of dealing with a project that has a very important tradition. Building upon the enthusiasm of one in taking on this new challenge and the previous experience of the other, we both approach this task with great respect and equal motivation.

From *Notizie AIB: Bollettino dell’Associazione italiana biblioteche* of the 1950s, to the following *Bollettino d’informazioni* that accompanied the Association until the 1990s and then again with *Bollettino AIB* and its transformation into *AIB studi* in 2012, this editorial venue has been a fundamental point of reference for many scholars and professionals, representing for many a milestone in personal, cultural and professional growth. It was like that for both of us.

The reflection on how we would like to carry out this task in the coming years could only start from this fundamental assumption: continue to work with great attention in the wake of tradition that *AIB studi* represents in our scientific community, trying to combine this identity with the needs and the characteristics of the reader and the contemporary scholar in continuous transformation. We wondered who the *lector in fabula* is – in the manner of Umberto Eco – with whom we are called to confront each other.

The reader builds and co-creates with the author the sense of the pages he reads, also starting from the complexity of the context in which he finds himself, in light of his needs for updating, study and growth. Talking about this perspective in the particular moment we are living is certainly not easy. In the days when we are writing this editorial, the surrounding context is gradually – and we hope stably – normalizing after incredibly difficult months of closure and isolation which have highlighted the great need for comparison, discussion and deep understanding of the phenomena. Many of us have become aware that complexity is what we must strive to embrace and uncertainty is something we must to live with. So, our *lector in fabula* takes the form of a scholar, of a professional, who has a growing need for tools to interpret reality, who wants to deal in depth with the phenomena, know their evolution and history, also through an interdisciplinary if not transdisciplinary perspective.

In the preparation of this issue and in the work program that we have started to build, we have tried to go in this direction, introducing some novelties that we want to share with the journal’s readers. But not before having said something about the work group that makes possible the realization of this project.

We are fortunate to be able to count on an editorial staff inspired by a great passion and characterized by commitment and professionalism. The people who make

up the editorial staff – some for many years now, someone from more recent times, and someone else still very recently acquired – are all united by a great sense of belonging to the *AIB studi* project and strongly motivated to give their contribution to allow a further development. We want to thank them all and to welcome Luca Lanzillo, the new managing editor who takes over the important work done by Roberto Raieli in these years and whose experience the journal will continue to benefit from.

Now let's talk about the novelties. We have inherited a scientific journal, positioned in the ANVUR class A, which for some years has become open access; therefore *AIB studi* has focused heavily on accessibility and transparency, characteristics to which we strongly adhere and which we believe should continue to be enhanced and hopefully strengthen in the future.

For this purpose we wanted to attribute a more marked identity to the web editorial team, within the editorial staff of the journal. Ilaria Fava – whom we welcome – will coordinate this small, but motivated work group, in the name of its specific 'planning' designed to combine research, experimentation and development of new solutions.

Again in the name of planning, arises the decision to attribute responsibility to the journal's sections *Osservatorio* and *Il libro*. The first – which will be curated by Simona Turbanti – will pursue, with even greater systematic nature, the goal of reinforcing the journal's international approach and ensuring constant contact with the world of research and profession outside the borders of our country; the second – curated by Silvana De Capua – will become a standing appointment for readers to deepen some important books through a broad and articulated point of view. The column – as in the past – is the natural complement to the reviews, which will continue to offer the reader all the tools for a careful and articulated reflection about the contemporary debate in our disciplines. Desirée de Stefano and Federica Olivotto have the task of carrying out *Recensioni e segnalazioni*, while Vittorio Ponzani will guarantee the continuity of *Letteratura professionale italiana*, a historical column of *AIB studi* and a very useful working tool for researchers in our sector.

Another section of the journal, entitled *Intersezioni*, deserves to be further appreciated and expanded; it was born from the good intuition of the previous editor in chief in order to enhance interdisciplinary research and strengthen the relations of our disciplinary domain with some adjacent areas, such as digital humanities. In particular we want to enrich this editorial line by encouraging reflection on the position of libraries as fundamental player of the 'book system', giving more space also to a reflection on the publishing world.

Furthermore, from the next issue we aim to inaugurate the immediate publication of at least one paper (so-called 'online first'), immediately after the completion of the peer review process, so that our authors and readers don't have to wait for the complete publication of the issue, but can benefit of the widest opportunities that a digital journal offers.

It is our intention to combine the spontaneous reception of contributions by scholars and professionals with the periodical launch of a call, with the aim to stimulate the participation of all concerned by further expanding the group of our authors, as well as evaluating the possibility of developing monographic themes occasionally. The national and international editorial board will be our privileged interlocutor for the evaluation of each initiative, through a constructive and constant dialogue with its members.

We conclude our statement of intent with a heartfelt thanks to Paul Gabriele Weston for the great job he has done in recent years and for the innovations he has introduced; thank you also for the many tips he has given us and for his availability for a delicate and deeply human exchange that we need so much today.

EDITORIALE

What has been said so far and much more represents the legacy of which we bear responsibility today and of which we hope to live up to. A task that we will face with the humility and audacity it requires.

Chiara Faggiolani, Anna Galluzzi

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