

Congedo  
Luigi Crocetti

Dear colleagues, dear friends,

I was entrusted to close this conference and to express final greetings in the name of all those (and they are many) who have worked for its organization. I feel very honoured, despite my various incompetences, and probably right for this. They were three very intense days, and very rich in contributions: according to the structure given to the conference, we could enjoy large views of theoretical and technical refreshing, as well as a very large exemplification (practical, sometimes also with theoretical aspects) of different experiences. The result was a sort of big mosaic; and in mosaics every tessera is necessary and has its own function. I think – and I hope you will agree – that final results are extremely important: a widening of the world horizon, a best knowledge of what is going on or what is in project, a deepening of perspectives and possibilities of international co-operation.

After first hesitations and first doubts, in the times of the accession of computers, the *authority work* has attested more and more as the foundation of the whole library work of recording and creation of accesses. I think that the present stage is a significant and useful one in the way to an increasingly better elaboration of this tool. Florence is pleased and proud to have hosted it.

Certainly this stage is helpful for my country, Italy, where practice and knowledge of *authority file* have for a long time been ignored or neglected. Our conference is the evidence, as referred to this, of a lively interest that has been developing for many years now and finally, I think, is mature to undertake concrete realizations. Work, here, seems particularly difficult because of little or absent agreement between library science and cultural needs in general. If, as it appears more and more clear even from the works of our conference, authority control is, among library activities, probably the one most closely linked to general culture, at least in the fact that decisions have to be taken on the basis of contemporary historical, literary and social studies, we must remember that this is the country where the most important and best biographic reference work (I refer to *Dizionario biografico degli italiani*, published by Istituto per l'Enciclopedia Italiana, whose 59<sup>th</sup> volume contains the letter G) has chosen for its entries the so-called private name (and almost without cross references!). The result, quite ironic, is that some scholars, say, Poliziano or Jacopone da Todi have been ignored for some time, without suspecting that Poliziano could be under the improbable *Ambrogini* and Jacopone under the absurd *Benedetti*.

The fact that the principal determining element in establishing the form of a name (or a subject) cannot be other than the use of respective insiders (for example, for a writer, philologists and literary critics). Therefore, the example brought by Michael Gorman in his fine introduction in the opening of our conference, about Giuseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa (unexceptionable according to ordinary sources) should be, in my opinion, reversed, because all historians and literary critics name *Lampedusa* the author of *Gattopardo*; and it will be enough to recall that monograph titled *Ricordo di Lampedusa* and which is not a memory of the island, but of the writer, or the current adjective *lampedusiano*. Also in this case, indexes, dictionaries, encyclopaedias prefer *Tomasi*. But reference works are important and essential to our work only when they do not adopt criteria that are not acceptable for whatever reason to our purposes (and this unfortunately is the case for most of the Italian ones). The truth does not lie in this kind of reference works but in actual use. Much has to be done, as we can see; but we do not doubt that, included in a context of international co-operation, Italian libraries can achieve the goal. Whether Italians or not, work is hard and long lasting for everybody; rather it is perpetual in itself. I did not hear anyone complain about this. Librarians works are all difficult and many never-ending.

We really hope that for all of you Florentine days have been pleasant. To all of you is addressed our greetings and our wish of good work, with particular intensity for those who came from very far. Finally - as a participant to the public of the conference – let me thank and greet all those whom we owe these three nice days, and to hail the person who has been the soul of the event: Mauro Guerrini.