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A review essay on MASSIMO M. AUGELLO, *Gli economisti accademici italiani dell'Ottocento. Una storia "documentale"*, 4 volumi, Pisa-Roma, Serra, 2013.

1. PIER FRANCESCO ASSO

THIS 4-volume dictionary offers a complete reference guide to the works by and on 72 Italian academic economists who held chairs of political economy (under various labels), public finance, and statistics in the nineteenth century. With the two notable exceptions of Vilfredo Pareto and Luigi Einaudi – the former never having been a professor at an Italian University, the latter too young for inclusion – all the Italian economists of the time are comprised in this major reference work: from Francesco Ferrara – the most authoritative exponent of Italian liberal economic thought of the mid-nineteenth century – to Maffeo Pantaleoni – the most original champion of Italian marginalism; from all the leaders of the various strands of the Italian school of public finance (such as Antonio de Viti de Marco, Ugo Mazzola, Amilcare Puvisani, Carlo Angelo Conigliani, Vito Cusumano, and again Pantaleoni), to a host of more or less well known heterodox figures who provided contributions to socialist, historical, post classical, or applied economics

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(such as Achille Loria, Girolamo Boccoardo, Ugo Rabbeno, Luigi Cossa, Augusto Graziani, and several others).

The following basic statistics give some idea of the scale of the work: Augello's dictionary lists more than 11 thousand works of primary bibliography and almost 9 thousand works of secondary bibliography – the most prolific authors being Achille Loria (more than 850 entries), Filippo Virgili (about 750), followed by Pantaleoni, Graziani, Riccardo Dalla Volta and Girolamo Boccoardo (about 500 each). All the various kinds of publications are included (monographs, textbooks, essays, short articles, book reviews, even literary writings), with the indexation of more than 700 journals and newspapers that hosted pieces by Italian economists. For each economist, Augello produced an essential biographical essay which provides information about their careers, as well as their collection of archival papers, their reputation among contemporaries and historians, and some productivity index. Another interesting feature is the degree of internationalization of Italian economists: on the whole, the general record seems to be fairly good, with several publications and an impressive number of book reviews published in French, German, British and North American journals – the *Economic Journal* together with the *Revue Economique Internationale* being the most frequent ones with 30 articles each.

Augello's dictionary was conceived in the mid-1980s, at a time when several historians of economic thought were engaged in editing dictionaries or reference works on past economists. Their common objective was to expand the range of analytical content of an increasing number of research projects not only of the study of the economists' theoretical contributions and analytical achievements, but also of original work on their role as policy makers, men of culture or, more generally, active members of the society of their time. All these dictionaries regarded individual 'great' economists of the past (e.g. Smith, Keynes or Schumpeter) or specific library collections (e.g. the Kress library), archival collections (e.g. the British twentieth century economists' papers), and editorial genres (e.g. Howey's catalogue on the *General Histories of Economics* from 1672 to 1975). To my knowledge, Augello was the first to challenge this 'monographic' approach to the making of a specialized dictionary in the history of economics and provide the universe of the literature produced by and on a whole, coherent group of academic economists.

The dictionary's subtitle («a documentary history») is very ambitious: it reveals, first of all, Augello's attempt to describe a journey in the wide-ranging interests of Italian economists in the decades that followed the unification of the country: besides being the members of a rather young academic discipline, Italian economists actively participated in

the political, cultural and administrative life of their time, trying to build a new nation-state and provide new ideas for its economic development. Scholars aiming to contribute to these subjects now have all the possible sources at their disposal.

While it took almost thirty years to accomplish this major enterprise and have its results published in an elegant series, the dictionary has already been a very valuable instrument for a series of research projects that have greatly enriched the knowledge of Italian economic thought since the second half of the 1980s. In fact, its data base provided crucial information for the understanding of the role of Italian economists in Parliament; in professional associations; in cultural foundations and societies; in the daily press and non-academic journals; in the production of general textbooks of economics and related issues. Relying on a sociology-of-knowledge approach, many different facets of the institutionalization and professionalization of Italian economics were clarified and thoroughly investigated by Augello, Marco Guidi and several other historians, also through comparison with other European and North-American countries. As Augello recalls in the introduction, more than 150 scholars (with more than 30 non-Italians) contributed to these projects.

On these grounds, the reviewer is entitled to ask (and, if possible, inform the interested or skeptical reader) what, if any, are the scientific potentialities of this instrument now that it has been published. And whether there is still an academic future for this kind of editorial enterprise in an age of the widespread internationalization of academic research and of what is perhaps a relative decline of interest in the study of national styles.

My impression is that the *Subject* index of this dictionary is the right place to look in order to design future research projects on Italian economists of the Liberal age. The most frequent entries in this index do not disclose original strands of research: quite in line with expectations, Italian economists wrote extensively on 'agriculture', 'trade', 'public finance', 'Italy's economic and political situation', 'money', 'banking' and 'monetary systems'. Whereas more international subjects, such as 'customs', 'protectionism', 'exchange rates', 'emigration', together with 'industry', 'entrepreneur' and 'economic development', received relatively minor attention. Apart from these very general considerations, there are several subjects that seem to be very original and worth pursuing. To mention just a few, Italian economists of that time devoted considerable attention to: education (both at 'school' and 'university' levels); environmental issues ('economic geography', 'natural resources', 'local development'); transportation ('harbors', 'railways' etc.); welfare systems ('solidarity', 'childhood care', 'poverty'); the relations between

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economics and other disciplines (see all the entries on 'economics and the natural sciences', 'and biology', 'and law', 'and sociology', 'and history'). These topics could also be analyzed in a comparative way with other national case studies.

Just to provide some further insights, let me add something more on the first topic at the top of my ideal selection: *i.e.*, 'education'. The dictionary is extremely rich in possible ideas that might be explored and verified: first of all, almost all Italian economists of the Liberal age (63 out of 72) wrote on education, including Pantaleoni, De Viti, Ferrara and Cognetti de Martiis; secondly, for some of them education was a field of great interest and specialization (see, for instance, Ferraris, Giuliani, Virgili and Sitta, who devoted to education a considerable part of their research); on the whole more than 650 entries of the primary bibliography are devoted to 'teaching', 'school' or 'university' systems.

At a first glance, on going through the list of specific references, the teaching of economics and related subjects acquires a prominent place within 'education'. For instance, economists frequently studied such issues as how to teach economics or economic techniques, or how to reform the education system also through international comparisons. Apart from this, several entries reveal a widespread interest in the applied aspects of education: statistical inquiries representing the regional distribution of students at their various levels, including university post-graduate students, together with some studies trying to measure the relevance of social contexts or family backgrounds underlying the level of education attainment or performance. Other interesting works have a more institutional or historical flavor: the role of education in the making of new civil rights or in the building up of a really liberal state, as well as its capacity to promote a more open and fair society through mechanisms of flexibility and social mobility. Finally, there are many entries on the real economic issues of education, in terms of costs and benefits, the efficiency of public spending, the economic aspects of basic literacy, or a more widespread access to university education or early childhood education.

Although this is just a tentative list of possible research projects that a cursory look at the dictionary may promote, it should be sufficient to grasp the unexplored potentialities of this monumental work, now placed at the disposal of a wider community of scholars. We live in a time when new, binding and extremely rigid rules of external valuation have been approved, perhaps underscoring the production of 'national style' histories of economics. However, the publication of this dictionary may also foster the reacquisition of a more balanced approach to these kinds of research, which may open up new perspectives of great interest for our community.



2. PIERO ROGGI

My first approach to the history of economic thought, under the guidance of Piero Barucci, was through the nineteenth century collections of Francesco Ferrara (*Biblioteca dell'economista*), Pietro Custodi (*Scrittori classici italiani d'economia politica*) and Luigi Cossa (*Saggi bibliografici*). The space left in my library near to those founding works of the discipline has now been occupied by the dictionary edited by Massimo Augello.

Augello himself defines his work as 'documentary' history, but this is only partly true. The dictionary is more an historiographic travel guide. Fellow travelers around this enormous descriptive effort are the political economist, the economist and the heir of the economist's documents. The landscape resembles a war zone where conflicting paradigms incessantly clash with one another and peace can only be a brief orthodox respite.

All my fellow travelers have fought in such wars. Section five of the dictionary's precious index describes one of their preferred battlefields: *Periodicals and Journals*. Each of them had its own champion, an economist who wrote in it with more frequency and assiduity. On agricultural matters: Virgili and Bodio; on bank and money questions: Loria and Ferrara; for labour: Loria and Dalla Volta; on credit demands: Loria (again); for cooperation: Loria, Rabbeno and Boccardo; for free trade: De Viti and Ferrara; on questions of commerce: Virgili, Boccardo and Zorli; regarding education: Loria and Virgili; on taxation: Graziani and Ferrara. So this table underlines that Achille Loria is the most eclectic Italian economist of the nineteenth century.

The third index section, *Characters*, takes us into the midst of the above scenario, among a full cast of fellow travelers, to understand their connection with the past. Their motivating memory may include an individual *maestro* or an entire school of thought. Every economist honors his *lari familiae*, dedicating essays and books to them. This attitude lays the ground of every historical work and must receive due consideration.

But also the reverse is true. Just as Gasparo Gozzi (1713-1786) would have liked to know people's opinion of his work after his death, to distinguish friends from enemies, so thanks to the fourth index section, dedicated to *Secondary literature*, it is possible to recognize the 'friends' of dead economists, and among them, the most devoted.

Cossa found admirers among: Toniolo, Böhm Bawerk and Gobbi (Toniolo being the most devoted); for Ferrara: Faucci, Caffè and Bousquet; for Pantaleoni: Bellanca, Amoroso and Bini; for Boccardo: De Guber-



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natis and Pavanelli; for Messedaglia: Pellanda, Luzzatti and De Stefani; for Cagnazzi: Carano, don Vito and Di Battista; for Supino: Loria, Fanno and Fossati; for Toniolo: Pecorari, Molesti and Meda; for Scialoja: Gili, Gallifante and Roggi.

The third section thus outlines the relationships between modern schools of thought and their past references. Marginalists favored authors like Pareto and Marshall; liberalists authors like Cobden, Ferrara and Cherbuliez. Others, the corporatists for example, preferred Arias more than Mazzei; Tuscan economists cited mostly Bandini; Benthamite economists quoted more J. S. Mill than Bentham himself; Italian historicists mostly referred to Luzzatti and Messedaglia, less to Lampertico; critics of the classical school mentioned Chalmers and Sismondi, less Lauderdale; followers of the classical school named Malthus most frequently, and then Ricardo, with Smith only third.

Thanks to Augello's dictionary economists are thus represented as an unending chain of generations linked together in a single line, connected by a continuous historiographical activity expressing motivational memories but also the need of assistance in contingent academic and scientific battles. The third and fourth section of the index reveal this last feature with precious insights.

Now to the heir of economists' documents to whom the seventh section of the index, *Archives and cultural institutions*, is dedicated. What is to be found here is that part of an economist's work that never saw the light of day. Barucci considers its study futile, given that an economist has not deemed it worthy of publishing, whereas Faucci thinks it essential to reconstruct the economic thought of an author. The history of art reminds us that to study under the finished paintings the first attempts of a painter has relevance, and similarly in the history of economics leftovers should be granted the dignity of subjects of research. The seventh section shows us how much unpublished material is still waiting to be studied: to a certain extent, obviously, given that the main focus of an historian of economic thought lies mainly in the interpretation of theorems.

While economists accumulated their 'leftovers' in and around their homes and working places, their heirs have the power to redistribute it. If the heir is blessed with funds, the result can be a foundation or a research center, otherwise the papers of the economist will end in state archives or remain in the hands of the family. The geographical distribution of the inheritance of Italian economists of the 19th century reveals a centripetal attraction force of politics. 147 archive groups are gathered in Rome and 45 in Florence, both capitals of the Kingdom of Italy. Another 40 are stored in Venice, and 25 in Bari.

To sum up, five points were suggested to me by this major work:

1. The evolution of economic thought resembles a battlefield.
2. A living economist is bound to past colleagues by present battles.
3. Political economists and politicians are not merely the passive receivers of the advice of economists. Often they manage their memory and inheritance.
4. The heir of an economist redistributes his unpublished material.
5. Historians, thanks to this dictionary, will work less but at the same time be constrained to greater bibliographical accuracy.

3. MANUELA MOSCA

I USED these volumes to create a bibliography on the subject of monopoly power. This is one of their uses imagined by Massimo Augello, who writes that the volume with the index of the *Subjects* «was devised ... as an instrument to whittle down and at the same time go more deeply into research on Italian economic thought of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries and on the related historiography» (xiii).

The first entry I looked at was 'Mercato (e Forme di)'.¹ I saw straightaway that the economists who had dealt with it the most were Graziani, Loria, Zorli, Dalla Volta, and Virgilio. I placed all the writers in chronological order and found myself faced with the interesting data of the frequency of publications on these subjects over the various periods. I then sought the titles of these texts in the three tomes of the first volume and immediately saw the themes which characterised the various periods: competition, patents, associations of firms, franchises, trade unions, state monopolies, nationalisations, laissez faire, and the economic policies of fascism. After this I looked for the entry 'Servizi Pubblici',² and found names of prime importance like De Viti de Marco and Loria, Ferrara and De Johannis, Dalla Volta and Graziani. I placed the names in chronological order and took down the titles. Before Italian unification (1861) there were very few contributions; in the three decades following they are more frequent, and mainly concern the setting up of networks and the national public services. The next two decades the majority of writings are on the management of the postal service, telegraph and telephones. As with the entry Market Structures, here too I excluded no text, even those dealing with contingent issues, because in each contribution of the list there might have been a theoretical item of some interest. I went on to examine the entry 'Industrie'.³ The top level names turned out to be Boccardo, Dalla Volta, De Johannis, Errera, Loria, and Virgilio. However, this entry is much more inclusive than the previous

¹ Market (and Structures of).

² Public Utilities.

³ Industries.

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ones, and for this reason the concentration of the contributions in one particular period may not be significant for my research, so this time I looked for the titles in the three tomes only after having taken down the data in the index. Only at this point did I go from the alphabetical order to chronological order, and analysed the outcome. Passing from an alphabetically ordered list to a chronological one creates an air of expectancy and curiosity, because we know that all of a sudden it will reveal a narrative. In this case I was able to clearly discern an advance in the thinking on monopoly power hand in hand with the progress of industry. At this point I selected the publications that were really relevant to my interests. I then examined three other entries which I had decided to take together for their relatedness: 'Sistemi di trasporto', 'Ferrovie', 'Vie di comunicazione'.¹ I followed my previous method. The problems dealt with were the development of all the routes of communication and their public or private management, in addition to the calculation of the tariffs. I finally found 'Sindacati'² and did the usual: the entry refers mainly to the workers' unions, but there were some texts highly relevant to my research, such as Pantaleoni's famous article of 1903.³

To finish up I created my own thematic bibliography, bringing together the results so far.⁴ The first thing you notice is their enormous scale, dismantling the widespread idea that the subject of monopoly power was specific to the USA.⁵ It is true that in Italy towards firms of a large size the attitude was that this was not inherently problematic, but this did not mean that a very large number of economists ignored it, on the contrary. This information has now been demonstrated, thanks to the thematic bibliography I built up out of these volumes. From the titles of its writings, it may also be seen that the interest in these subjects was aroused both in reaction to European and American events, and because of the situation of industry in Italy and the policies carried out by its governments. Analysis of new critical sectors appears: telephones, telegraphs, shipping industry, aviation, insurance. Issues connected to the war economy and then the fascist autarchy come up. But I stop here, because by basing these reflections of mine only on a list of titles, I wouldn't want to exaggerate in putting into practice Bayard's encouragement, to speak of books without having read them.⁶

¹ Transport systems, Railways, Communication networks.

² Syndicates.

³ M. PANTALEONI, «Some observations on syndicates and associations» (1903), in M. Baldassarri and P. Ciocca (eds), *Roots of the Italian School of Economics and Finance*, Basingstoke, Palgrave, 2001, 131-214.

⁴ The thematic bibliography is published in *Pensiero Economico Italiano*, 1, 2015.

⁵ M. MORGAN, «Competing notions of competition», *History of political economy*, 1993, 564, fn. 4.

⁶ P. BAYARD, *How to Talk about Books You Haven't Read*, London, Granta Books, 2007.

Browsing through and then going back to browse again through thematic bibliographies there takes shape that primordial fermentation in the mind which gives birth to the ideas on the direction our research should take. For example, if the bibliographies of the Italian marginalists are brought together in a single chronological list, you can discover that many of their writings were brought about as an immediate reaction to previous work of others. In this choral quality lies the evidence that the group of Italian marginalists should be considered as a well defined school. They therefore deserve a place apart in the history of economic thought, on an equal footing with the Cambridge group, or the Swedish economists. To demonstrate this thesis of mine, reliable and comprehensive bibliographies of the Italian marginalists are required, like those now to be found in this work.

These volumes contain the biggest library of Italian economic literature of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Browsing through them or looking something up in them gives you the same sensation as finding yourself inside a room full of interesting books, whose spines draw you to them, and which arouse emotions in you ranging from curiosity, to hopes and desires. The evocative power of the titles contained in this work led me to reflect upon the 'poetics of the bibliography', bringing to mind past reading of a content other than economic. At first I was reminded of that part of Proust's *Recherche* called *Place Names: the Name*, where by pronouncing the names of Balbec, Venice, and Florence he reactivates his dreams of travelling, and these mere names arouse in him «the arbitrary joys of the imagination», exalting his idea of those places.¹ More pertinent are the words of France: «I know of no read easier, more attractive, or which I'm more fond of than that of a catalogue».² Then there is Eco, when he describes the catalogues of the great libraries: their purpose is a practical one, but the scholar reads them «like an enchanting formula . . . like a country of Cockaigne».³ Zweig compares this enchantment to the astronomer immersing himself in «another universe», in a «world standing above our world», the world of books, in fact.⁴

4. MARCO GUIDI

GLI economisti accademici italiani dell'Ottocento is one of the few works by Massimo Augello of which I am not the co-author. In fact, here he is

¹ M. PROUST, *Swann's Way* (1913), third section *Places-Names: The Name*, New York, Vintage books, 1982.

² A. FRANCE, *The Crime of Sylvestre Bonnard* (1881), New York, Mondial, 2007.

³ Eco also recalls that «the relish for the booklist holds a fascination for many writers, from Cervantes to Huysmans and Calvino» (U. Eco, *The Infinity of Lists*, New York, Rizzoli, 2009).

⁴ S. ZWEIG, *Buchmendel* (1929), London, Pushkin Press, 1998.

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the absolute *solista*. This does not imply that he jealously kept this work for himself. Whoever asked him for access to *his* database received an enthusiastic answer. Massimo's database has been a 'public good' since the beginning, and so it will be for this multi-volume work, now published.

One of its most interesting characteristics is his choosing to cover only those economists who lectured for some time in one of the Italian universities between the unification of Italy in 1861 and the end of the nineteenth century. While this choice excludes some important figures, it provides a clear measure of the academic professionalisation of economics in the second half of the nineteenth century. The biographies and bibliographies contained in Augello's *opus* provide crucial materials for a study of the institutionalisation of political economy, and for the quantitative studies on economic literature of which Massimo is an undisputed authority, and not only on Italian economic thought (see his work on Schumpeter).¹

When Massimo started this research at the beginning of the 1980s, he was an absolute pioneer in the branch of learning today known as 'digital humanities'. Nowadays, the web offers various attractive databases which provide scholars in humanities and social sciences with a variety of bibliographical catalogues and thousands of digital texts, pictures, videos, etc. Is this a challenge for Massimo's book? My answer is definitely not. First and foremost, it is virtually impossible to find more information in the web on the economists included in Augello's work, and this will be the case for a long time to come. Digital copies of the contributions to Italian economics are poorly covered by the most important national and international digital libraries, and the digitalisation of Italian library catalogues is still limited in some cases, nonexistent in others, and in general anarchical. Massimo's work is a challenge for the web rather than the opposite, because his accurate and systematic data collection is a secure guide for scholars, and helps them to critically analyse their findings. He patiently reconstructed the story of each text, its reprints and new editions, its reviews, and its translations, where they exist. He browsed through hundreds of journals and newspapers. He collected in the literature and in correspondence every piece of useful information to identify anonymous publications and acronyms. He checked one by one the exact bibliographical elements of each contribution.

¹ See M. M. AUGELLO, «The Societies of Political Economy in Italy and the Professionalization of Economists (1860-1900)», *History of Economics Society Bulletin*, 11, 1989, 99-112; Id., *Joseph Aloys Schumpeter: a Reference Guide* Berlin, Springer, 1990; Id., «Works by Schumpeter», in R. Swedberg (ed.), *Joseph Aloys Schumpeter. The Economics and Sociology of Capitalism*, Princeton, Princeton University Press, 1991, 445-497; Id., «L'evoluzione della letteratura economica in Italia (1861-1900)», *Il Pensiero economico italiano*, 11, 1, 1994, 7-36.

Another feature of this work is its being, as it were, 'author neutral'. Many historians of economics have concentrated their research on the best known Italian economists, leaving aside all the 'buzz', and sometimes even quite remarkable contributions, coming from more neglected authors. Thanks to Massimo Augello, we have now access to a series of accurate biographical and bibliographical reconstructions on every Italian economist. This huge amount of information is invaluable to clarify, contextualise, measure, and evaluate a large variety of studies on single topics, debates, and controversies. These volumes cannot be considered simply as a reference work of which Massimo Augello is the editor. This *opus* is a 'documentary' reconstruction of the evolution of Italian economic thought. And it is remarkable as a contribution to the prestigious Italian tradition of philological studies.

Despite the huge amount of information contained in the final volume of indexes, there is potentially an infinite number of subjects that can be studied starting from Augello's biographies and bibliographies. As I am currently interested in translations, I tried to extract from this work all the available information on them.¹

A first result, as he himself declares in the general introduction (vol. 1, t. 1, XLIII), is that the translations of Italian economic texts are very few, especially if compared to the huge amount of national literature. If translations provide a measure of an economist's reputation, the Italian economic thought of the nineteenth century had, and still has, very little impact on the international circulation of economic ideas.

From the data on the works translated into other languages one can distinguish recent from contemporary translations, or can weight clusters of translations collected in single books, like the anthology of Ferrara's articles entitled *Oeuvres économiques choisies*, edited by G. H. Bousquet and J. Crisafulli.² Another distinction can be made between translations published abroad, most probably true phenomena of scientific exportation, and those published in Italy, sometimes self-translations or translations promoted by the author himself. Nevertheless, it is easy to detect a certain correlation between international notoriety and the number of translations, as in the cases of De Viti de Marco, Ferrara, Loria, Pantaleoni, and even Toniolo, who was quite well known in Catholic circles. The highest score belongs to Luigi Cossa for his three textbooks, the *Primi elementi di economia politica* (1875), the *Guida allo studio dell'economia politica* (1876), and the *Primi elementi di scienza delle finanze* (1876). This is to be remarked upon, because it shows that the

¹ See E. Carpi, M. E. L. Guidi (eds), *Languages of Political Economy. Cross-disciplinary Studies on Economic Translations*, Pisa, Pisa University Press, 2014.

² Paris, M. Rivière, 1938.

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international circulation of economic ideas followed not only the paths described by the history of economic analysis, but also those related to more institutional demands (the teaching of economics, the activities of economic associations, and social and political organisations).

From the languages into which the contributions of Italian economists were translated, we can say that the dissemination of Italian political economy in the nineteenth century, despite its narrow scale, was a global phenomenon. French, English and German prevailed, but translations in Spanish and Portuguese were equally numerous, and a significant number of them were published in Latin America. Russian, Japanese and some eastern European languages are also represented: it would be interesting to reconstruct the biographies of translators and editors to understand the reasons for their interest in Italian economic thought. As revealed by some recent contributions,¹ sometimes translators were young beneficiaries of travel grants who visited European universities to improve their knowledge of recent economics, or the assistants of lecturers who intended to adopt translated textbooks as materials for their courses. The choice of source texts was more or less informed and updated. Depending on the aims of the translation, translators' preferences tended towards simple and systematic textbooks, the propaganda tools for particular ideologies, movements and schools of thought² or the more neutral, impartial if not eclectic, works which opened a window on different worlds and traditions of thought. The success of textbooks like those by Cossa, with their extensive reviews of the Italian and European economic literature, can be explained in this way.

It is worth mentioning that Augello's bibliographies also include translations into Italian authored by Italian economists. Actually, only a few among them performed this exercise (Messedaglia, Loria, and Salvatore Cognetti de Martiis being the most active). Cognetti's name is also associated with the series entitled *Biblioteca dell'economista*, of which he was the general editor for some years.³ Thanks to this series, pub-

¹ See O. BOROKH, *Adam Smith*, cit.; T. NISHIZAWA, «The Emergence of the Economic Science in Japan and the Evolution of Textbooks», in M. M. Augello, M. E. L. Guidi (eds), *The Economic Reader*, London, Routledge, 2012, 305-323.

² See M. M. AUGELLO, M. E. L. GUIDI, «Economics Treatises and Textbooks in Italy. A comparative analysis of 18th- and 19th-century political economy», in J. Astigarraga, J. Usoz (eds), *L'économie politique et la sphère publique dans le débat des Lumières*, Madrid, Rústica-Casa de Velázquez, 2013, 103-122.

³ See G. BECCHIO, «Salvatore Cognetti de Martiis e il Laboratorio di Economia Politica di Torino», *Il Pensiero economico italiano*, II, 2, 2004, 12-23; R. FAUCCI, A. RANCAN, «Fra storicismo e sociologia economica: la III e IV serie della "Biblioteca dell'Economista"», in M. M. Augello, M. E. L. Guidi (a cura di), *L'economia divulgata (1840-1922). Stili e percorsi italiani*, vol. 3, *La Biblioteca dell'economista e la circolazione internazionale dei manuali*, Milano, Angeli, 2007, 59-98.

lished for more than fifty years, Italy was second to no country in the nineteenth century for the number of translated economic works. The direct role in the translating of its successive editors, Ferrara, Boccardo, Cognetti and Pasquale Jannacone, is still obscure: for this reason, I believe, Augello excluded these translations from the editors' bibliographies.¹ However the edition of this series was an important component of their intellectual career, as indeed the biographical chapters of Augello's work clearly reveal.

Can anything be done to increase the utility of these volumes? I think an eBook edition would help a lot, being searchable for whatever term the reader may wish to find. But making the original database available online would be still more useful, because it could be updated and enlarged either by its author, or by other scholars, or even by the crowd, if duly monitored. A public database could be linked to the available digital editions of translations and to other scholarly and bibliographical sources, and be used as a basis for further research and educational projects.

These are only suggestions, and we must be grateful to Massimo Augello for devoting so much time and energy to a work for which the whole research community will benefit for many a long year.

¹ See C. GUCCIONE, «Specialized Translators at Work during the Risorgimento. The Biblioteca dell'Economista and its English-Italian Translations (1851-1868)», in E. Carpi, M. E. L. Guidi (eds), *Languages of Political Economy*, cit., 101-133. See also the appendix to M. M. AUGELLO, M. E. L. GUIDI, «La circolazione internazionale dei manuali e la "Biblioteca dell'economista": un'esperienza editoriale unica», in M. M. Augello, M. E. L. Guidi (eds), *L'economia divulgata*, vol. 3, cit., VII-LXXII, for a complete list of the contents of the series.

