

FIFTY YEARS OF THE *RIVISTA DI STUDI FENICI*

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For Sabatino Moscati, one hundred years after his birth

The *Rivista di Studi Fenici* is fifty years old: half a century of history, that of the discipline related to Phoenician and Punic studies, straddling two centuries, the 20th and 21st, that have experienced sudden cultural changes and developments with all that this entails in the transformation of methodological perspectives and the quantity and quality of information available to scholars of Mediterranean history.

Fifty years following the furrow traced by Sabatino Moscati and the pioneering initiative to found a discipline and a scientific journal dedicated to it. In the new course of the *Rivista*, as I wrote in the editorial of the first issue I directed,¹ the discipline is now moving into new regions, new chronological areas, and undertaking the study of new themes with new or renewed methodological approaches.

To celebrate *RStFen* 50, we have decided to publish Sabatino Moscati's Introduction to the first issue of the *Rivista*, written in 1973, in memory of the distinguished scholar who founded and believed in the intercultural values of this Mediterranean discipline, a scholar whose centenary is being celebrated right now by bringing together Italian experts at the Accademia dei Lincei, in Rome, in November 2022. Given the policy of maximum accessibility that the *Rivista* promotes, Moscati's text is reprinted both in the original Italian version (and in the original format of the 1973 Review) and with an English translation.²

In addition to the publication of this text, which has marked the *Rivista*'s history, we have entrusted two researchers who have dealt extensively and fruitfully with identity issues with the task of taking stock of the last decade of research on Phoenician identity. Giuseppe Garbati and Tatiana Pedrazzi are two Italian scholars who are part of the Phoenician and Punic Research Group of the Institute of Cultural Heritage Sciences of the CNR, which is the heir to the institute founded by Sabatino Moscati: the vitality and importance of the Italian school in the Phoenician field are confirmed by the activities of this research group within the new institute. While, in fact, many scholars deal with the discipline in many parts of the world, it is still the CNR that brings together a compact research group specialised in the history and archaeology of the Phoenician and Punic world in a single institution. Moscati's original idea, although the names of the CNR Institutes have changed rapidly over time, remains valid and successful, well represented today and projected into the future, thanks also to the younger researchers who have joined the research between East and West.

With a view to the international dialogue of which Sabatino Moscati was always a promoter, we asked Nicholas C. Vella, a member of the scientific committee and a fine connoisseur of the theoretical debate surrounding issues relating to the discipline, to write a free reflection on the current role of the Review also in relation to its past history.

1 I. Oggiano, *Editoriale*, in «RStFen» 44, 2016, pp. 9-11.

2 I. Oggiano, *Lost in Translation. The Compromise of Translating non-English Writings*, in «RStFen» 49, 2021, pp. 151-152.

In the new century, the *Rivista* has had to keep up with advances in publishing and therefore we celebrate it with the introduction of open access. This does not mean that we're turning our back on the printed version, which will continue to be printed thanks to the fruitful cooperation with Quasar Editore. We scholars know that nothing can ever compare to the joy of leafing through a paper book in a library. But the Open Access movement in itself provides elements of fascination equal to those of the printed press: how can we not bring to mind a principle such as the democratisation of scientific information?

The adoption of OA is the first step in the Open Science mandate, which is now the approach enshrined in the major research infrastructures and programmes of Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe. This moment of renewal in publishing policy is also marked by a coincidence. The year 2022 marks the 20th anniversary of the Budapest Open Access Initiative, released on the 14th of February, 2002 (<https://www.budapestopenaccessinitiative.org/read/>), a true milestone in the open access movement.³ The aim of the 2022 meeting was to accelerate efforts to make the products of scientific research freely accessible online, enshrining the commitment of the signatory institutions to support open access as a fundamental tool for the dissemination of knowledge. While publishing research results is for a researcher one of the fundamental moments of his or her work as a scholar, a moment in which “he or she fully assumes his or her responsibilities as an archaeologist”,⁴ the next step is to publish them open access, which must become a true institutional duty for research institutions and academies conducting their research with public funding.

Thanks to the introduction of open access, this issue experiments with the possibility of offering a hybrid contribution such as the one on Levantine amphorae, in which the extensive catalogue is accessible online and thus without the limitations that printed paper would have posed.

Finally, how better to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary than with the publication of a volume full of quality contributions ranging from historical to archaeological disciplines, from epigraphy to linguistics and from the eastern to the western Mediterranean? In short, the Phoenician Sea still has much to tell and the *Journal of Phoenician Studies* still has much life to live.

3 «Archeologia e Calcolatori», created and edited by Paola Moscati, has pioneered the Open Archive Initiative since 2005. It inspired us to embark on the new open access adventure of *RStFen*. I would like to thank all the colleagues of the Open Data Group of the Institute of Cultural Heritage Sciences for their support, especially Alessandra Piergrossi, Salvatore Fiorino and Nicolò Paraciani. Thanks also to Sara Di Marcello who, as head of CNR edizioni, encouraged and followed this important moment for *RStFen*.

4 D. Manacorda, *Lezioni di archeologia*, Roma-Bari 2008, p. 235.