

50 Years! The Congress has Grown and... has Grown Up!!

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- **How did the idea of the congress come about?**
 - 1960: after completing my military service in the *Alpini* corps (18 months, then!), I returned to the Institute as a voluntary assistant (naturally not paid...).
 - Meanwhile, the grand preparations for the 1st Centenary of Italian Unification were beginning in Turin.
 - An idea came to me! I proposed to Prof. Fumagalli, then charged with the teaching of Anthropology and Ethnography after the death of her teacher Giovanni Marro, that we should also do something for these celebrations...What? I wondered...
 - I read the famous work by Fabio Frassetto "Dantis Ossa" written for the 6th Centenary of the death of the Poet (1321).
 - But of course! "Caburri Ossa"! Camillo Benso Count of Cavour was buried at Santena, a few kilometres from Turin.
 - His tomb was a disaster: dirty, full of cobwebs, with rain infiltration...It would be a good occasion to conduct a reconnaissance and restore the tomb.
 - But how to proceed? I asked and learned that Dr. Avetta was the director of the "Cavour Foundation", and had her office in Palazzo Reale.
 - I went to her and explained our project.
 - Kindly (?) but firmly she said NO. "Cavour must not be touched!" I persisted: we know there are few bones, uncertain...No luck.
 - I thought some more.
 - Then I proposed a "Congress of Anthropology"; it would be the first in Italy.
 - Fumagalli had some doubts, but she let me proceed, and little by little Father David, Masali and I set to work.
 - First problem: find the funding to stage such an event, as I mentioned the first in Italy!
 - I learned that Accountant Soffietti was Vice-president of the "Torino'61" Committee...
 - And we came into possession of a certain sum that allowed us to begin to put into motion the great machine of the Congress.
 - And there we were at the inauguration: **19 September 1961.**
 - Under the Patronage of the Minister of Public Education, Sen. Prof. G. Bosco, the top Italian researchers arrived in Turin to participate in the 1st Congress of Anthropology, Ethnology and Folklore.
 - Let us remember: Sergio SERGI (Dean of Italian anthropologists), Giancarlo ALCIATI, Luigi BRIAN, Cleto CORRAIN, Venerando CORRENTI, Giuseppe GENNA, Vinicio GROTANELLI, Dino GRIBAUDI, Vittorio LANTERNARI, Carlo MAXIA, Pietro SCOTTI, Gabriella SPEDINI and many others who represented practically all the Italian universities, from Turin to Rome, from Genoa to Palermo, from Florence to Cagliari, from Bologna to Catania. Without counting representatives from Switzerland, Poland, Spain, Portugal, England, as well as from overseas in the United States and Mexico.
 - The Opening was on Tuesday 19 September in the Great Hall of the University with a welcome by the Chancellor Prof. Mario ALLARA and an inaugural address by Prof. Sergio SERGI who traced a history of Anthropology, particularly in Italy, in the last century, clearly without forgetting the contribution to this science of foreign researchers, European ones *in primis*.
 - The terminology used in the definition formulated in Basel by the International Conference in 1933 is interesting. It expressly stated:
 - "The name anthropological and ethnological sciences includes the disciplines that contribute to the science of man because of their application to the study of races, peoples and ways of life"
 - And then began the Congress activities, held, given the high number of participants, in the great hall of the Chemistry Institute.
 - There were also moments of rest, of entertainment. Appetizers, lunches, dinners, offered by the Mayor of Turin, by the Province and by the Chancellor. And then visits to interesting places such as the Sacra di San Michele, a trip to the Aosta Valley with a show at the St. Vincent casino, a symphony concert at the RAI Auditorium and finally an evening at the Castle of Stupinigi.
 - Yes, back then we had many sponsors and lots of money...
 - But I don't want to dwell any longer on these half-century-old memories!
- I wish only to recall the Order of the Day formulated at the end of the Congress.
- NOTED – since, in the movement of peoples of all the earth, there is becoming ever more urgently clear each day the binding necessity to deepen our knowledge of them in order to understand them and cohabit with them in a spirit of human solidarity, the Congress vows that the sciences of Man be taught*

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in the Universities with adequate teaching that makes possible the education of young people, with the essential knowledge to be able to enter into the spirit of the peoples, in order to arrive, with a rigorous scientific training, at mutual comprehension and harmonious social cohabitation, required by the continuous, feverish ascent of human societies.

Five decades have passed since the 1st Congress, but I believe, and I think you will agree with me, that the Order of the Day of 50 years ago is still very topical.

We cannot forget, in closing, to recall some important dates, especially for Turin, or better for the Institute of Anthropology of Turin.

The year 2011 sees the 85th anniversary of the foundation of our Institute and we must also recall the 50th anniversary of the death of Prof. Savina Fumagalli, preceded 9 years earlier by the death of the founder Prof. Sen. Giovanni Marro. And we must also remember the 1st centenary of his participation in the excavations in Egypt with the MAI (Italian Archaeological Mission in Egypt) conceived and conducted by Prof. Ernesto Schiaparelli, who at the wishes of Victor Emmanuel III gave such lustre to Turin's Egyptian Museum, such as to make it the second best in the world.

A year after the closing of the 1st Congress, the Acts were published...also this, I would say, is a record!

Let us await 2061...to celebrate the 2nd Centenary of Italian Unification, and if you agree let us make an appointment here, in Turin, the first Capital of Italy for the

44th CONGRESS OF ANTHROPOLOGY

ITALIAN ANTHROPOLOGY CONGRESSES

- 1 – 1961 – Turin
- 2 – 1978 – Trieste
- 3 – 1979 – Bologna
- 4 – 1981 – Naples
- 5 – 1983 – Varenna
- 6 – 1985 – Cagliari
- 7 – 1987 – Frascati
- 8 – 1989 – Parma
- 9 – 1991 – Bari
- 10 – 1993 – Pisa
- 11 – 1995 – Isernia
- 12 – 1997 – Palermo
- 13 – 1999 – Rome
- 14 – 2001 – Cosenza
- 15 – 2003 – Chieti
- 16 – 2005 – Genoa
- 17 – 2007 – Cagliari
- 18 – 2009 – Florence
- 19 – 2011 – Turin
- 20 – 2013 –

1961 – Tuesday 19 – Friday 22 September
Oral Reports 50; Registered 64; Participants 51;
Companions 25

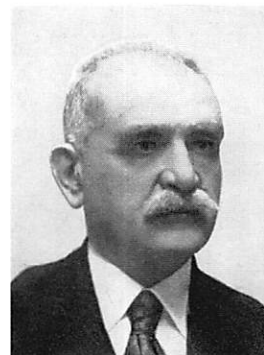
2011 – Wednesday 21 – Saturday 24 September
Oral Reports 97; Posters 109; Registered 170.



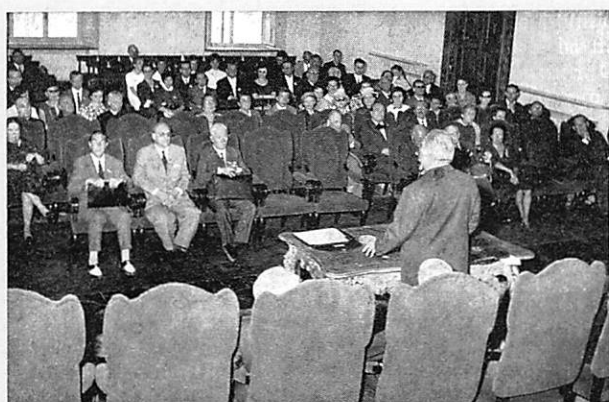
Prof. Savina Fumagalli, - 18 dicembre 1961



La Presidenza del Congresso alla seduta di chiusura. Parla il prof. Sergi. Da sinistra il prof. V. L. Grottanelli, il prof. P. Tosehi, il prof. V. Correnti, il dott. M. Masali, segretario.



Prof. Giovanni Marro



L'Aula Magna con i Congressisti



Il Rettor Magnifico della Università di Torino prof. Mario Allara rivolge il suo saluto ai Congressisti. Gli sono accanto il presidente del Congresso prof. S. Sergi, il rappresentante del Sindaco di Torino assessore cav. Mario Enrico ed il prof. A. Corti.