

Presentation

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One year later, we are publishing the second edition of «Ammentu», with a change. From now on, the Sardinian language in its three main variants -Campidanese, Gallurese and Logudorese- will be admitted among the languages used in this journal. For some time, we have been considering the idea of enhancing the prestige of Sard as a language which can be used to write scientific articles and papers, as is already the case for other minority languages in the European Union, primarily Catalan, a language spoken and written by a little over 9 million people in Catalonia, Valencia and the Balearic Islands, as well as in France, in the region of Roussillon, and on our *Ínsula*, in the city of Alghero. Of course, we are well aware that the results which have been achieved in Spain with respect to the Catalan language are as of today a mere utopia in Sardinia. However despite this, we have the duty (and also the pleasure), to do what is within our reach to extol the value of a language -our language, the language of our parents- as a constitutive element and foundation of our identity, the identity of our small homeland, an autonomous homeland (although with an incomplete autonomy), which is, however, part of the larger homeland of Italy.

This edition, devoted to the memory of the late Professor Tito Orrù, consists of a Dossier and two Focus sections. The Dossier, *1840-2010 Sardegna - Uruguay. Dai 170 anni di amicizia e di rapport culturali e commerciali ai nuovi possibili scenari di sviluppo economico*, by the authors Giampaolo Atzei and Martino Contu, discusses the events of the international convention held in Cagliari and Villacidro on 25 and 26 November 2012, organised at the initiative of the Centro Studi SEA and the Consulate of Uruguay in Sardinia. The papers address issues related to trade and consular relations between the Oriental Republic of Uruguay and the Kingdom of Sardinia first and the Kingdom of Italy later. Particular attention is also given to the emigration of the late 19th century by elite Sardinians and the role played by second- and third-generation emigrants, with specific reference to two individuals: Juan Carlos Fa Robaina, several times deputy and senator and vice minister of Culture in 1972, when Julio Maria Sanguinetti, future president of Uruguay, headed the ministry; and Osvaldo Crispo Acosta “Lauxar”, critic of Latin American and Spanish literature part of the literary movement of the so-called “Generación del 18”.

This is followed by Focus with *Consoli e consolati stranieri tra Settecento e Ottocento in Sardegna e Corsica*, written by Manuela Garau. This section is dedicated to consuls and to the activity of the French and Maltese consulates in Sardinia and to the consul of the Kingdom of Naples, Francesco Bigani, who was stationed in Corsica during the most crucial years of the French Revolution.

The last Focus, *Visite pastorali in età moderna e contemporanea*, by Cecilia Tasca, takes the form of a contribution to the study of a historical source that, despite its biasness (given that it represents the views of the bishop), also draws on other sources, such as relations *ad limina*, which make it irreplaceable for verifying information, not only about the ecclesiastical and legal organisation of the dioceses and the pastoral activity carried out by the clergy, but also for learning about other aspects of the life of parish communities, including moral, social, financial and culture aspects.

I would like to finish with some words about Professor Tito Orrù, which is to whom, as I mentioned, we have dedicated this edition of «Ammentu»: professor of Economic History and History of Sardinia at the Faculty of Political Science, University of Cagliari, who passed away one year ago but whose memory lives on for having ensured, together with Professor Carlino Sole, the publication of the *Diario politico 1855-1876* of Republican Deputy Giorgio Asproni and for having been the director and tireless promoter of the journal «Bollettino Bibliografico e rassegna archivistica e di studi storici della Sardegna». However, what we remember most is his Sardinian nature, his ever so deep bond with Sardinia, his love for the island's history, its traditions, its culture and its language, Sard, which he learned as a child and which he, as a historian, sought to exploit, even in its literary forms, with passion and commitment to society.