

Manifesto of the journal

PREAMBLE

In the current historical period, marked by tragic conflicts and dramatic tensions in various areas, it is absolutely appropriate to ponder and recoup the fundamental aspects of culture, e.g. the relationship with the past, people's common history, and the universal values on which our coexistence and civilization are based upon.

In such a context it seems important to deepen the relationship with the past history, and not only the ancient history or that of a few centuries ago, but also the more recent history, of the Short Century that has just gone. For us, researchers and university teachers of disciplines related to Chemistry, it seems crucial to deepen the bonds with those forerunners who preceded us in research and in education, in order to mature a more convinced and deep awareness of the world and of the civilization from which we come and to pass the baton to the future generations, in total liberty, as stated by the art. 33 of the Constitution of the Italian Republic, that reads "The Republic guarantees the freedom of the arts and sciences, which may be freely taught."¹

PRESENTATION

Substantia is an international electronic peer-reviewed journal. It is published in English by the University of Florence, at the initiative of the Department of Chemistry "Ugo Schiff". The journal aims at offering an original cultural contribution in Europe to the History of Chemistry and a scientific tool of communication, debate and close examination of all topics related to Chemical Sciences and similar disciplines.

Substantia is born in Florence, one of the cradles for Science, and particularly for Chemistry. As a matter of fact it was during the Florentine Renaissance that the studies and the practices pertaining to Chemistry received a new impetus: the Camerata de' Bardi was born in the 16th century and promoted a new way to look at sciences, arts and literature (the first records date back

to 1573 AD). During the following decades the Accademia dei Lincei (1603), the Accademia del Cimento (1657), the Royal Society in London (1662), the Académie Royale des Sciences in Paris (1666), the Kurfürstlich Akademie der Wissenschaften in Berlin (1700), the Russian Academy of Sciences in St. Petersburg (Российская академия наук, *Rossiiskaya akademiya nauk*, 1724), the Kungliga Vetenskapsakademien in Stockholm (1739), and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences of the Massachusetts (1780) were progressively born. These academies became the places of aggregation, dispute and divulgation of the rising Chemistry.

Substantia is addressed to teachers, researchers and university students, and to all those interested in deepening the scientific themes related to Chemistry. The journal publishes original articles that comply with the criteria of scientific rigour, originality and depth and it is freely distributed over the Internet with no restriction in open access, in compliance with the principles of the "Berlin Declaration on Open Access": open access to knowledge, largest dissemination and visibility on the Web for scientific research, and public distribution of the results of the studies. The journal may host monographic issues focusing onto specific themes of interest.

The aims of *Substantia*, in the attempt to conjugate scientific rigour and an interdisciplinary outlook, include:

- 1) the promotion of research activities in History of Chemistry through the publication of papers devoted to classical or contemporary Chemistry issues, and in particular of studies that leap over the fences of the rigid academic organization and promote the combination and intersection of knowledges, techniques, methodologies and diversified languages
- 2) the recovery and republication of unpublished or unlikely available works, that represent milestones in the development of Chemistry and related disciplines, and whose validity and scientific relevance remain untouched also after decades
- 3) the recovery or the revival of past literature sources, in the attempt to limit the "loss of knowledge" that

relentlessly strikes the human culture, and that is inadvertently favored by the extreme fragmentation and specialization of science

- 4) the promotion of a critical outlook towards current and past theoretical models, in order to encourage and develop the job of young researchers.

A SPACE ALSO FOR SIMILAR DISCIPLINES

Substantia will always welcome scientific contributions focusing on topics related to all Chemical Sciences, Physics, Mathematics, Life and Earth Sciences, History and Philosophy of the Sciences, Engineering, Medicine, Economics, Social Sciences and Arts.

1. “L’arte e la scienza sono libere e libero ne è l’insegnamento.” https://www.senato.it/documenti/repository/istituzione/costituzione_inglese.pdf, last accessed on Jan 02, 2017.