

Our due to a vanished friend

When we began work on the project of this journal, early in 1986, we could not know the result we would achieve - nor could we be sure if there would be any results at all; and we had certainly underestimated the difficulties we would meet and the tenacity and willpower necessary to overcome them. Our friend and colleague Rosario Romeo had a vision of things which was probably the most realistic, yet it did not discourage him. If anything, it was the opposite; his clarity of vision served to inspire him, and us. Without his ideas, enthusiasm and political commitment, this enterprise would perhaps never have been even attempted.

What no-one could have foreseen, however, was that by the publication of the first issue, Rosario Romeo would no longer be with us, taken as he was one morning in March 1987 by a sudden and implacable illness.

We do not wish to unnecessarily sadden the reader, the more so as Rosario Romeo, a leading moral and cultural figure in his own country, was known internationally mainly in the European Parliament and by professional historians. We would simply like to acknowledge here that this journal, insofar as it may be of some worth and use, is also his offspring, the product of his natural superiority free from any arrogance, of his personal rigour combined with humanity.

Writing with the sense of futility and anger which arises over the death of a friend, and the sadness at the loss of such a vital, lucid and passionate mind, we would like to state simply that we have continued in his absence as best we could, and tried through the completion of his work to suppress the deep sense of intellectual solitude which is the enduring legacy of his decease.