

The *Journal of Limnology*'s 80th anniversary

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Celebrating an anniversary is, at the same time, appreciation of past well-being and hope for a favourable future. However, celebrating the birthday of a scientific journal is not just an act of hope in the future, but rather an act of faith in research and in science as tools for the advancement of the human species.

This trust is not an irrational hope in the benevolence of some deity but, on the contrary, is the rational projection into the future of a reality we have already encountered.

The celebration of the *Journal of Limnology*'s 80th anniversary is therefore accompanied by gratitude to our fellow past Editors-in-chief who in the past have, with many difficulties, kept the journal alive (Edgardo Baldi, Vittorio Tonolli, Livia Tonolli Pirocchi, Riccardo de Bernardi, Gianluigi Giussani). Born in 1942 during the hard times of the Second World War with the name *Memorie dell'Istituto Italiano di Idrobiologia* and renamed in 1999, our journal has gone through the transition from conventional to digital publishing, from home-made publishing to professional publishing. Not only it has survived these transitions, but rather than encountering senescence it has rejuvenated itself as the years have passed. It updated not only its editorial look but also the publishing process. Moving from exchange-based circulation with partner institutions to full open access and improving a rigorous peer-review managed by Associate Editors with specific expertise in the various branches of limnology, the journal has maintained a relevant role in the world of limnology.

This achievement is undoubtedly the result of the efforts of the Associate Editors and Reviewers, duly ac-

knowledged in the journal, to whom we owe our gratitude. It is also thanks to the publisher Page Press who, with foresight, offered the editors not only editorial support but also help in times of financial difficulty. But above all, it is thanks to the colleagues who have judged the *Journal of Limnology* adequate to receive the results of their research activities, even in recent years when the financial straits and the bureaucratic difficulties afflicting our institute, as many other institutes in the world, have forced the *Journal of Limnology* to apply a publication fee to ensure its survival.

As we blow out the eighty candles on the *Journal of Limnology*'s birthday cake, we make a wish as the tradition require. Our wish is that future changes in limnology, its methods, its focus, and the institutions that host it, will never cause us to lose sight of the ultimate goal of our research: to seek and disseminate the knowledge necessary to ensure the well-being of our world and of the people who live in it.

Happy birthday *Journal of Limnology*!

Roberto Bertoni* and Diego Fontaneto

**The time has come for me to finally give way to colleagues who are younger than me and more involved in active research. Therefore, with this volume, I will conclude my activity for the Journal of Limnology, leaving Diego in charge of the journal as Editor-in-chief.*

I am certainly leaving the Journal of Limnology in good hands. During the years in which we have shared the role of editors, his dedication and efficiency have been essential to ensure the advancement of the journal. And certainly these qualities of Diego are a guarantee of a successful future for our journal.

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