



Editorial – Celebrating and recalling

The year 2014 is especially rich in anniversaries and celebrations.

Without claiming to be complete, let us mention first of all the 60th anniversary of CERN foundation, the 50th anniversary of the formulation of the quark model by Gell-Mann and Zweig, the 40th anniversary of the discovery by Ting and Richter of the J/ψ , namely the fourth “charmed” quark of the Standard Model, not to leave

behind the 100th anniversary of the X-ray diffraction of von Laue and – in fact – the International Year of Crystallography IYCr2014.

In 2014 also fall the 60th anniversary of Enrico Fermi’s death and the 80th anniversary of his ingenious formulation of the beta-decay theory.

Moreover this is the year of the 450th anniversary of Galileo Galilei’s birth.

And on top of that, 2014 will also be the year of the 100th National Congress of the Italian Physical Society. The first SIF Meeting took place in Rome in 1897, at the Royal Physics Institute of via Panisperna, where the Society was established. Its founding President was Pietro Blaserna as already mentioned in a previous issue of SIF PRIMA PAGINA. Other meetings followed (not annually) until the 32nd in 1942. In 1947 (after the end of the war) the first National Congress, that coincided with the 50th anniversary of SIF foundation, was held in Como. By decision of the then President Giovanni Polvani it was sequentially numbered as the XXXIII Congress.

The Italian Physical Society takes its cue from all these significant anniversaries for its activities in the frame of both the International School of Physics “Enrico Fermi” of Varenna and its National Congress, as well as for its numerous editorial productions.

In particular, in the course of 2014, IL NUOVO SAGGIATORE will publish in each of its issues small samples of the immense work of Galilei. And on the occasion of its 100th National Congress, to be held in Pisa from 22 to 26 September, SIF will put on stage a performance based on the reading of some special Galileian passages and their illustration.

Our wish is that the young, who rightly look at the future, might nevertheless derive constant inspiration from a past so rich in history and discoveries.

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