

**Proceedings of the
SYMPOSIUM ON ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERSPECTIVES IN COORDINATION
CHEMISTRY
(Dedicated to Luigi Sacconi)
Florence, 21–24 April, 1981**

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The Symposium, organized by the pupils of Professor Luigi Sacconi, was sponsored by the University of Florence, the Italian Research Council (CNR), the Regional Government, the Accademia dei Lincei, and the National Secretary of Public Education.

Preface

When Italian University Professors reach the age of 71, they are allowed to finish their teaching duties for that academic year and then become "out of roll". In this new status they continue to do absolutely everything they used to do with the exception of teaching regular courses.

Luigi Sacconi was born on 28 February, 1911, and his pupils thought that his going "out of roll" could be celebrated with his friends from throughout the world. The response of these friends to the idea was enthusiastic and so a small Symposium was held in Florence, 21–24 April, 1981. Attendance at the Symposium was very large, especially from Italian Universities.

At the opening ceremony, the Mayor of the City of Florence and the Regional Secretary for Public Education, both old friends of Luigi Sacconi, acknowledged Sacconi's many and varied contributions to the cultural and social progress of the Country, before an audience which could not fit into the Aula Magna of the University. The Rector of the University and President Emeritus of The Italian Council of Research outlined the attributes of Sacconi as a man and as a scientist.

Most of the invited speakers agreed to provide the text of their lectures to commemorate the event. These are reproduced in this special issue of *Coordination Chemistry Reviews*. Excerpts of two speeches during the celebrations are also included below to give some details of the life and career of Luigi Sacconi.

The organizers would like to express their deepest gratitude to all the participants of the Symposium for creating a particularly pleasant atmosphere of warm friendship for Luigi Sacconi.

Ivano Bertini