## G. B. MARINI-BETTOLO (\*)

## Foreword

History of contemporary science, as it is known, has an important place among the our Academy's present tesks. Our Institution owns a rich historical Archive, dating from 1786 to the present, which thus covers two centuries of lively Italian history and of extraordinary scientific developments, perhaps a unione collection of this kind in Italy (I).

Among the Academy's andowments there are also remarkable massurely materials of high historical interest — for example the correspondence of Sasnisha Cannizano, Augusto Righti and Emanuele Paternio — and besides, one of the two copies of the Archive of the History of Quantum Physics, vanishable as present in Europe. Within the Academy, the Center for the History of Contemporary Science promotes inlitatives to encourage research in the field of the history of modern and contemporary science, including the Academy's history.

The president of the Center, Edoardo Amaldi, is assisted by a Committee composed of Giuseppe Monolanti, Giuseppe Penso, and Emillo Segré and the undersigned, all from the Audemy, and by the Profession Salvo D'Agostino and Michelangelo De Maria from the University of Rome, La Sapienza, acting as Secretaries.

On the oceasion of its bicentennial, in 1982, the Academy whiched to call assemble to see activation, to some services. I am pleased to mention attend to the one services. I am pleased to mention among the latter the papers of the filter of melaboraties, of chemistry in Italy in the last two entropies. It is the services of the control of the contro

A complete account of the history of the Academy, by Giuseppe Penso, has been published in 1978, under the title: Scienziati italiani e Unità d'Italia (3).

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<sup>(</sup>I) G. PADLONI, M. TORTI CROCK, Assalenda Norfende delle Science dette dei XL: Guide all'erchirie sterior, Rocca 1945.

<sup>(2)</sup> Menerie il Matenatica e il Sciency Pinish e Naturali. Biometenzio – 100°, 1982.
(3) G. Pasco, Simulati influed e Lista d'Italia, Seritti e Decumuni 1, Accademia Nazionale delle Scienze detta cel XI., Roma 1978.

In this spirit the Academy considering the activity in the field of history of Science as an important part of its commitments, has sponned in 1984 the Congress Neglocal did Grapps Italians per is State dill Filter of the Caulity in Neglonial did Returned and has housted a Sension of the Congress, and now publishes in its Manurel & Science Fisiole v Naturali, the Congress Proceedings, an important contribution to the history of physics, or proceedings, an important contribution to the history of physics.

Roma, September 1985