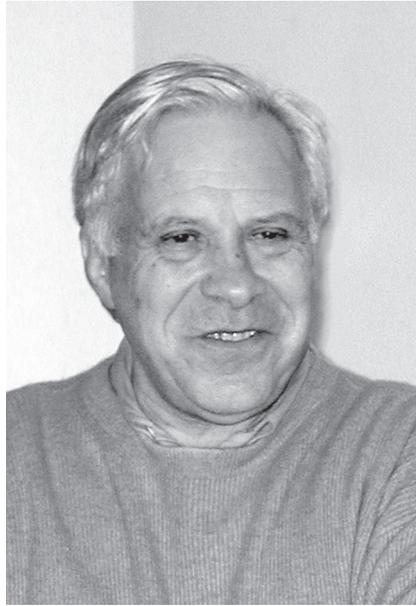

Preface



Enzo Tiezzi

4th February 1938 – 25th June 2010

This special issue has been prepared to honour the memory of Professor Enzo Tiezzi one of the main editors of this Journal who died 25th June 2010 still at the peak of his career.

Enzo was a major personality in the ecological systems field where he was recognized as one of the disciples of Prigogine. Enzo was Professor of Chemistry at the University of Siena but his interests were wide ranging, from poetry to chemistry, bringing new ideas and deeper insight to all fields of knowledge. His main scientific contributions were in the topics of evolutionary processes and ecosystems.

Enzo was closely associated to our Wessex Institute of Technology and its publishing arm, WIT Press. We have been fortunate to have published several scientific books authored by Enzo as well as one of his novels, which gives an idea of the breadth of his interests. He was co-editor of many WIT Press books and a main Editor of this Journal.

It will take too long to describe the major achievements of Enzo and his collaboration with our Institute. It is important, however, to point out that he was the prime motivator behind

the establishment of the Prigogine Gold Medal Award, instituted by the University of Siena and the Wessex Institute of Technology, following the death of Professor Ilya Prigogine in 2003. This important award has been given every year since 2004 to the best researcher working in the field of ecosystems modeling, particularly those following the work of Prigogine. Enzo received the award in 2005 at the Aula Magna of the University of Cadiz. He was also a Director and Fellow of the Wessex Institute, who awarded him the Eminent Scientist medal in 2003. Enzo received many other awards and recognitions during his career.

His life continues in the work of the many researchers that he has guided over his long and prolific career. It also features in his books, papers and poems; one of which we are printing below in its original Italian and our less eloquent English translation. I have selected this poem because it encompasses so much of Enzo's ideas in a few lines, ie his deep concern for the deterioration of the environment and the destruction of our ecological legacy.

The papers published in this issue reflect some of Enzo's interests through the work of several close collaborators.

I am indebted to those colleagues who decided to contribute to this special issue. The quality of their papers is a fitting tribute to one of the most prominent figures of our time.

Carlos A Brebbia

Wessex Institute of Technology
The New Forest, UK

Tre Aprilante, quaranta di durante

(Siena, maggio '98)

Cambiano le cose del Pianeta,
venti di ponente forzano cicloni imprevisti
e lo scirocco porta sempre di più acque alte a Venezia.

Il nino infuoca le foreste d'Indonesia
e le stagioni sembrano impazzite.

L'armattano, vento caldo del Sahel,
inardisce lande già semideserte
e porta polvere rossa di dune.

Gli alisei e i monsoni
non obbediscono più a ritmi armoniosi,
ma ai signori del petrolio
e al loro nefando effetto serra.

Quest'anno le rondini hanno tardato:
tre aprilante, quaranta di durante.

Tre Aprilante, quaranta di durante

(April the third, Spring is forty days late)

Everything is changing on the Planet
West Winds drive unforeseen cyclones
And the Sirocco raises the Venetian tides.

El Niño fires up the Indonesian forests
and the seasons behave ever more strangely.

L'Armattano, the warm wind of Sahel,
dries up already semi-desert lands
carrying the dunes' red dust

The Trade Winds and Monsoons
conform no more to the rhythmic harmonies
but to the oil masters instead
and their infamous greenhouse effect.

This year the swallows return later than last
"Tre Aprilante, quaranta di durante"