

In Memoriam of Dino Felisati

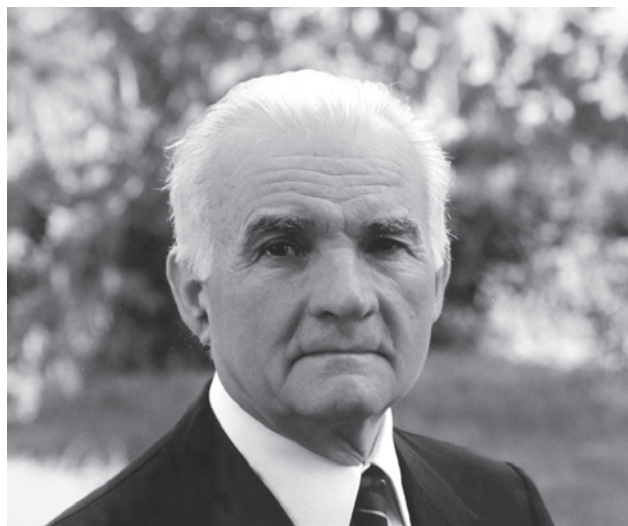
(22/11/1922 - 12/3/2017)

Dino Felisati was born in a small town on the delta of the Po river, a place to which he remained bound throughout his life, a place to which he returned often and whenever possible, and to which he dedicated two volumes of considerations and memories. He was also strongly bound to two cities: Venice, where his family had transferred and where he lived his adolescence, and Milan, where he carried out his intense and gratifying professional life.

His career started in the prestigious school of Luigi Pietrantonio and, in 1960, following Pietrantonio's death, he moved from a hospital to university setting. Since 1961, Felisati was department head at Merate Hospital, and since 1972 at Bassini in Milan, which had become a university centre, at which he, in the 1980s and 1990s, was first Lecturer and later Adjunct Professor. But it was above all the organisation and development of the Italian Society of ENT that Dino Felisati brought fundamental contributions for which we all owe him our gratitude.

First of all, it must be remembered that he, together with other hospitals (De Amicis, Clerici, Tavani, Borasi), contributed significantly to the transformation, in 1976, of SILOR to SIO, and worked hard to give it new life by modifying many statutes and regulations, using knowledge that he had acquired over many years of undisputed expertise. This dedication to the activities and development of our society never wavered, even in old age. I remember, for example, that after reaching the presidency of the SIO and after it ended in 1987 with the organisation of the superb National Congress in Milan, Felisati was always present at the meetings of the Executive Board during which he provided helpful advice dictated by his long experience and good sense. I also remember his collaboration with me, Giuliano Perfumo, Gianni Ralli and Domenico Celestino in setting up and improving the Historical Museum and Library at our office in Rome, further highlighting his commendable spirit of service.

I must lastly remember the 30-year collaboration that has tied me and Dino thanks to our shared passion for historical studies. In truth, at the beginning of this relationship in the early 1980s, it was certainly not ideal because I perceived him as gruff, hard and sometimes unfriendly, but over time I realised that behind this facade lurked a kind soul, openly jovial, available to friendship, and so a great, fraternal friendship established between us and bound us for many years. Our shared passion for the History of Medicine and our mutual esteem cemented this long collaboration, which was witnessed by long series of articles and books published over the years and dedicated to the evolution of otolaryngology over time. I must admit that it was always Dino, despite being the oldest, to always give the right incentives, to kindle enthusiasm for discovering new evidence, so much so that only a few months ago he had proposed some new projects. Now, unfortunately, this dear friend is gone, leaving behind a great void and immense regret.



Giorgio Sperati