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A SIENESE ACADEMIC WOMAN OF THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY: ARETAFILA SAVINI DE' ROSSI.

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This research aims to show the correlation between Tuscan literary and scientific academies and the discourse on women's education at the dawn of the eighteenth century, considering Aretafila Savini de' Rossi, Sieneese poetess and painter, famous for her *Apologia in favore degli Studj delle donne*, written in 1723. For the first time the circumstances that prompted to the publication in 1729 of her modern work in favor of women's studies are clarified. The link was doctor Antonio Vallisneri, naturalist philosopher, who wrote to Aretafila in 1726, asking a copy of her work, known to him thanks to the mediation of his son Antonio junior. The Savini was in contact with eminent scientific-cultural circles of that time. Among these were: Anton

Maria Salvini, Greek Literature professor at the Florentine Studio, Crescenzo Vaselli, a Sieneese member of the Fisiocritici Academy and Princess Violante of Bavaria's personal doctor, Anton Francesco Marmi, Florentine colleague of the famous librarian Magliabechi, Pier Jacopo Martello, well-known Bolognese playwright, and Antonio Vallisneri, chair of Medicine at the University of Padua and member of the Fisiocritici Academy. These cultural contacts were possible thanks to academies, the only cultural institutions that granted women's participation in the age of Enlightenment. The Arcadia Academy, of which Aretafila became a member in 1712 under the name of Larinda Alagonia, as well as the peculiar Sieneese combination between the Arcadians and the Fisiocritici (1699-1733), allowed her to contact and dialogue with the custodians of the scientific culture from which ladies were traditionally excluded.

Key words. Aretafila Savini Rossi, Academy of Arcadia, women's education, Fisiocritici Academy, Antonio Vallisneri, Larinda Alagonia.

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THE EVOLUTION OF MANAGEMENT OF BREAST AFTER MASTECTOMY

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Mammary carcinoma is the most common malignant pathology in women, and the plastic surgeon is daily in the frontline in treating it. Our task, and our aim, is to offer patients the most valid solutions in order to reach the most effective oncological outcome together with the best aesthetic result. The surgical treatment of mammary tumors has undergone profound and continuous changes in the last thirty years: the tendency towards completely destructive operations has given way to evermore preserving surgery thanks to the possibility of combining general surgery with plastic surgery techniques. This has enabled the conflict between surgical removal and aesthetic results to be overcome, thus improving the patients' quality of life. This possibility has given rise to the need of a thorough study of the evolution which has taken place in the last years in the field of post-mastectomy mammary reconstruction, taking into exam all available techniques and evaluating their usefulness at present. This study has been carried out with the collaboration of Bryant A. Toth, a world-famous plastic and reconstructive surgeon with a vast experience in numerous aspects of this field and who has taken us through this ambitious project.

Key Words: mammary carcinoma, evolution, post-mastectomy mammary reconstruction

PANDEMIC FLU A/H1N1v: VIROLOGICAL SURVEILLANCE IN SOUTH TUSCANY

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On April 24, 2004, the World Health Organization confirmed a number of cases of contagion of the new Influenza virus A/H1N1 in Mexico and the United States. On June 11 2009, the rapid spread of infection compelled the WHO to raise the pandemic phase to 6, which corresponds to the highest state of alert. The virus probably originated from a recent reassortment between a swine virus previously reassorted with three different viral strains (swine, avian, human) and a new viral strain similar to the Euroasiatic avian virus[1]. This unprecedented circulation of the new influenza virus was facilitated by travel and international exchanges and has reached, in the period of little more than six weeks, the same extent that had been present in previous pandemics in a period of six months, therefore making necessary the implementation of various strategies of Epidemiological and Virological Surveillance. During the pandemic season, 866 pharyngeal swab samples of persons who presented influenza symptoms were gathered. The patients were then divided into different age groups: 0-4, 5-24, 35-54, 55-64 and ≥65 years of age. The virus' RNA was extracted from each swab by using a specific kit. Afterwards the RNA was reverse transcribed in cDNA and amplified in a single reaction of real-time PCR using the one-step kit recommended by CDC protocol. The analysis of the 866 pharyngeal swabs has shown the presence of 262 positive sample results for the new variant of the A/H1N1 virus. Several parameters of this study have been taken in consideration: age groups, geographical distribution of infection in the three cities studied, the weekly trend of positive results which had shown up after a trip abroad, the incidence in local cases and the measure of infection of the virus among patients who came in contact with infected persons. Among the examined age groups, those majorly affected are: ages 0-4, 5-14, 15-24, the least affected age group was ≥65. In conclusion, the data demonstrates that the age group mainly affected is that between ages 0-24. Presumably such data is justified by considering that the immune system of younger people has never come in contact previously with the variants similar to the A/H1N1, whereas older adults would seem to be less susceptible, probably because they have already come in contact with similar viruses. The obtained data illustrates an elevated level of contagiousness among individuals, since the new influenza virus A/H1N1 of 2009, represents a variant of completely different from other H1N1 viruses that had previously circulated in the human species. It should be pointed out that the hemagglutinin differs by 27.2% and the neuraminidase by 18.2% compared to the amino acid sequence of the 2008 H1N1 influenza virus and by the variant of the viral strain used for the production of the vaccine, this lent to a significant pandemic potential. The trend of positivity in local cases from the 29th week was kept at medium-low levels until the 38th week with a great increase, probably due to the reopening of schools and offices after the summer break.