

## Chapter 12

# Entomology Renaissance in Italy: XX International Congress of Entomology, Florence, 25–31 August 1996

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In 1996, the Italian scientific community was honored to host the International Congress of Entomology (XX ICE), in Florence, August 25–31. The congress was jointly organized by the Accademia Nazionale Italiana di Entomologia (Italian National Academy of Entomology) and the Società Entomologica Italiana (Italian Entomological Society). Members of the main Italian universities, research institutions, and museums contributed to the organization of this special event, which was returning to Europe 12 years after XVII ICE in Hamburg, Germany (Chapter 9).

Baccio Baccetti (Fig. 12.1) was congress president and chair of the Local Organizing Committee (LOC); Augusto Vigna Taglianti was secretary general (Fig. 12.1); and Ermenegildo (Gildo) Tremblay was chair of the Scientific Committee (Fig. 12.1). They were supported by members of four subcommittees (Table 12.1) and received constructive advice from Max Whitten (Fig. 12.1), the secretary of the Council for ICEs. Viviana Vitali and her team from Organizzazione Internazionale Congressi (OIC Group) provided excellent professional support to the LOC to ensure a smooth running of the congress.

The venues chosen to host XX ICE were the Palazzo dei Congressi, Fortezza da Basso, and Centro Affari (Fig. 12.2A), a fantastic location right in the heart of Florence, where a unique blend of historical buildings (Fig. 12.2B) and large conference facilities (Fig. 12.2C) offered an ideal context for such a large and prestigious meeting.

Abstracts and the texts of the plenary and all other presentations were published in the 820-page Proceedings (Anonymous 1996). This was distributed at the congress to all registered participants, along with the program and a special issue of the *Memorie della Società Entomologica Italiana*, which was published for the occasion. In this volume, Cesare Conci (president of the Italian Entomological Society) and Roberto Poggi (secretary of the Italian Entomological Society) compiled a list of all entomological collections conserved in public Italian institutions (Poggi and Conci 1996) and published *An Iconography of Italian Entomologists with Essential Biographical Data* (Conci and Poggi 1996).