
PREAMBLE

This special issue of *Economia Politica. Journal of Analytical and Institutional Economics*, has been sponsored by Fondazione Edison for two main reasons, a general and a specific one.

From a general point of view we wanted to confirm the Foundation's (and Edison Group's) appreciation of this journal, which through strict procedures of anonymous reference and selection of the essays published, put in place in full independence ensured by scientific organizations, has reached a high qualification level that makes it probably the major Italian economic science review in the most trustworthy international lists. For this reason *Economia Politica*, directed by Alberto Quadrio Curzio, is complementary to the activities of Fondazione Edison, which conducts applied economics studies on Italian economic subjects within the European and international context under the direction of Marco Fortis.

From the specific viewpoint this Special Issue on the Phillips *Monetary National Income Analogue Computing Machine* (MONIAC) commemorating its 60th Anniversary shows the interesting role played by the collaboration between economists on the one hand and hydraulic and electrical engineers on the other in the design and construction of a simulation tool to process dynamic macro-economic data. As perceptively noted, appropriately, in a recent issue, pointed out to us, of the leading *IEEE Control Systems Magazine*: «[The MONIAC's] creation was a result of the inspired collaboration between the electrical-engineer-turned-economist A.W.H (Bill) Phillips and his economist colleague Walter Newlyn». (The Moniac: A Hydromechanical Analog Computer of the 1950s by Chris Bissell, February, 2007, p.69.)

All this indirectly recalls the work of Giuseppe Colombo, who founded Edison in 1884. Giuseppe Colombo, rector of Politecnico of Milan (Engineering University), for some time Finance Minister and later Treasury Minister, MP and Chairman of the Chamber of Deputies, and then senator, was defined as an engineer-economist with a broad international vision. The interest of this special issue appears also from the authors of the essays, who come from nine Universities and institutions of different countries, thus confirming the international value of this initiative.

As a matter of fact Edison, though an Italian company, has always been European and International. For this reason we are pleased to publish essays by Alberto Quadrio Curzio (Milan's Catholic University and National Lincei Academy), K.Vela Velupillai, Giovanni Pegoretti and Stefano Zambelli (University of Trento, Italy), Alan Bollard (Governor, Reserve Bank of New Zealand), David Colander (Middlebury College, Vermont), Brian Hayes (Senior Writer, American Scientist), Michael Kuczynski (Pembroke College, Cambridge, UK), Roberto Leeson (Stanford University, CA), Allan McRobie (Cambridge University, UK), Michael Stevenson (Artist/Sculptor, New Zealand/Berlin).

Umberto Quadrino
Chairman Fondazione Edison

Bruno Lescoeur
Managing Director Edison
