

**FIRST PERUGIA WORKSHOP
IN NUCLEAR ASTROPHYSICS**
In Honour and Memory of Vittorio Castellani

Perugia, November 27-28, 2006

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To Filippina Caputo and Marco Castellani, as a testimony of our grateful and affectionate memory for our friend and teacher, Vittorio, whose scientific and human inheritance remains preserved in our hearts and in our daily work.

(The authors and the editors)

FOREWORD

This book is in some way different from the usual Proceedings of Scientific Conferences. Though it actually includes the talks given at the "First Perugia Workshop in Nuclear Astrophysics", held in Perugia in November 2006, the decision of publishing the contributions as a dedicated volume, and to do it through the "Memorie della Società Astronomica Italiana", a Society that had Vittorio Castellani as a well remembered and loved President, has a very special meaning.

The workshop was organized to host the VI meeting of the research group called "GIANTS" (Gruppo Italiano di Astrofisica Nucleare Teorica e Sperimentale), founded years ago with Vittorio's fundamental input and advise, and having the scope of bringing together Nuclear Physicists (dedicating their work to the measurements and theoretical estimates of nuclear cross sections at stellar energies) and Astrophysicists (working mainly in the fields of stellar evolution and nucleosynthesis).

Vittorio had a special gift for affording science and life under broad horizons and for convincing people of different formation and fields to join in view of common objectives. His teaching and example has convinced us to proceed on the track that he has indicated so clearly throughout his whole career.

We all remember that at the previous meeting of this series, in Teramo, Vittorio was the one who opened the works and indicated the main lines on which the interdisciplinary researches of Nuclear Astrophysics would have to move in the next years. We miss his witty comments as well as his sharp scientific intuition and broad perspectives, but above everything else we miss him as a man and a friend.

We all decided, therefore, that this was the right time for putting in written form our thoughts, which we could not discuss with him as usual. This is the origin of this book, and being dedicated to Vittorio it seemed obvious that it had to be published by MemSAIt.

This is, in itself, a small thing; but it's also a choral offer, a testimony that we want to leave; and a promise that we shall try to go on, following his example, at the best of our capabilities.

M. Busso (for all the authors and editors)