

Presentation

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After twelve years of uninterrupted activity in the field of historical research and eight years of work and passion in publishing, we felt the need to create a digital journal to disseminate the results of our work, but above all, to deal with other countries beyond Sardinia, the island-continent. Not a new idea: the topic had been previously discussed with the members of the SEA Study Centre, yet the project never took shape, as the times were not ripe.

A tragical event as the loss of a very close friend gave us the strength and the inner drive to revive the idea and make it real. From such a sad event, the conditions came up for the dream to come true: the long-sought scientific journal is also a post-mortem tribute of gratitude to Don Giovanni Pinna: a member, a friend, but first of all a priest, a servant of the Totally Other as he always felt himself to be, for whom Jesus Christ was the center of his whole life, full of *Totum tuum* rather than the *Totum meum* of many priests of our times. A true Shepherd, sometimes unwelcome by the diocesan clergy, but loved by his people to whom he committed all himself. He lives on in the minds and hearts of thousands.

Our review is in some way the final result of its continued spread. *Ammentu*, the title of the first series of publications of the SEA Study Centre, inaugurated and directed by Father Giovannino since 2003, is its name. *Ammentu* in Logudorese Sardinian means remembrance, memory. I remember Don Pinna, but also the memory of the past, the memory that we would still continue to discover, to highlight through the documents set in a broader context beyond the borders of Sardinia.

Our review is subtitled "Historical, Archival and Consular Bulletin of the Mediterranean." It makes clear that the aim is not only archival and historical but also consular, as we intend to restore and enhance those consular sources often overlooked by modern historians.

The reference area is the Mediterranean and its lands; specifically, we focus mostly on the western Mediterranean islands, with which we feel the need to confront and go together along the same way. Sardinia, Sicily, the Balearic Islands, Corsica, Malta and the smaller islands are our main geographic points of reference. Then there are those areas of the Americas, Europe and North Africa with which, in the past, the islands of the *Sea Internum* established close ties and working relationships, especially through immigration, that still survive although in milder forms.

"Ammentu" starts as a yearly journal of modern and contemporary age. It is structured in the "Dossier" and "Focus". The topics to be discussed, both in the "Dossier" as in "Focus" are laid down by the Editorial Office, in collaboration with the Editorial Board and with the advice of the Scientific Committee, in order to promote democratic participation and discussion on issues and studies that may involve the members of both Committees, keeping into account the geographical areas they represent.

In this first issue, *in memoriam* of Don Giovannino Pinna, we include the Dossier on Fascist emigration and political exiles between the wars, by Giampaolo Atzei and Martino Contu, and the following Focuses: Consuls and Consulates from the

unification of Italy to the Second World War, edited by Manuela Garau, "For war or for peace: Sardinian priests between fascism, "afascismo" and anti-fascism", by Lorenzo Di Biase; "*Sea Internum* and Mediterranean Rio Plata," by Cecilia Tasca.

We hope, with humility, this issue of "Ammentu" to be the first in a long series, a moment of constructive confrontation, beyond different yet welcome political and religious opinions that feature respect and research towards a truth, as much as possible, objective.

As Don Pinna would have said in his mother language, Sardinian-Campidanese, "*Deus s'agiudidi*" (God help us) and "*Atrus annus*" (For many more years). We would have replied "*Deu bollada*" (God will) in a loud voice, and we invite our friends to do so.