Succeeding to Professor Ottavio Pompeiano as Chief Editors of Archives Italiennes de Biologie is a great honour and a heavy responsibility at the same time. For over twenty-five years, Prof. Pompeiano has passionately poured time and effort in the life of Archives. Since its birth in 1882, Archives has published papers that have become milestones in science and that continue to be cited after decades, as shown by the long journal half-life index. Fostering this tradition, Prof. Pompeiano has published unique collections of excellent papers as Proceedings from Symposia in honour of internationally recognized outstanding scientists, including Giuseppe Moruzzi – former Editor of Archives -, Rita Levi-Montalcini, Nathaniel Kleitman and Michel Jouvet, just to mention a few of them. Under Professor Pompeiano’s wise leadership, Archives have passed from the time of type-written manuscripts and off-set figure reproduction to the modern revolution of online publishing, that is inaugurated with this very issue.

We proudly look at Prof. Pompeiano’s legacy as an example and a stimulus to maintain the long scientific tradition and nourish Archives for the next generation.