

Remembering Professor Mauro Francaviglia

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Omnivorous, omnipresent, omniscient.

Three *omnigenous* adjectives that convey the (omniGenius) personality of our beloved late Professor Mauro Francaviglia.

Omnivorous: he fed on culture in the broadest sense.

He was a well-rounded scholar, he liked to be nourished by “knowledge” rather than study only his discipline. It was difficult, if not impossible, to find him unprepared on a topic. He could speak about science, philately, religion, culinary arts, esotericism, among the others. And this love for the intellectual activities has multiplied when he met Marcella Giulia Lorenzi, his wife, the love of his life, which has opened to him the doors of art. Flattered by the new lines of research, through his works Francaviglia helped the academic and scientific world to increase the interest towards the interdisciplinary synergy between science and art, after many years of closure, of entrenchment in their disciplinary boundaries.

Omnipresent: the eclectic personality and intellectual appetite lead Mauro to attend as much as possible cultural events of various disciplines, fluttering from one to another.

I remember him at conferences on history and archaeology, or palaeontology, when he could always phrase the question intelligently, or intervene with an acute and always appropriate observation. The doctrinal oxymoron is only apparent, thanks to its preparation Francaviglia was able to make links to physics and mathematics in any speech, but also to assimilate different disciplines and digest all matters making his personal connections and finding original outcomes. His special gift was offering to the public the result of this reprocessing, so to make it simple and easy to digest even to those who were starving yet striving for culture.

Omniscient: the third adjective is nothing more than the summa of the previous ones.

Francaviglia loved nourishing himself with study and work, the result was his person, inwardly rich and never pedantic, humble in his desire to learn and resolute with other people’s rudeness, generous in teaching and learning. Goodbye Mauro, we will remember you when we will see a butterfly flapping its wings ... but we will do it for science, not for rhetoric.



Figure 1. Prof. Mauro Francaviglia. Opening of the XIX SIGRAV Conference on General Relativity and Gravitational Physics, Scuola Normale Superiore Pisa, 2010. Photo Copyright Marcella Giulia Lorenzi.