

Antonio Vallisneri

Ex ovo omnia. Parassitologia e origine delle epidemie nelle ricerche e nell'opera di Antonio Vallisneri, ed. Dario Generali, Florence, Olschki, xviii + 232 pp., collects contributions that investigate the research conducted by Vallisneri on parasites and parasitoids: Dario Generali, 'Un fronte della battaglia contro la tesi della generazione spontanea' (1–93), after a brief historical overview, broadly analyses Francesco Redi's positions, his debate with Malpighi, and the correspondence between Redi's collaborator Diacinto Cestoni and Vallisneri. The main part of the book refers to the *Quaderni di osservazione*. Francesco Andrietti and Carlo Polidori, 'Un'analisi storico-biologica delle indagini di Antonio Vallisneri e Diacinto Cestoni su vespe parassitoidi e galligene' (95–133), analyses the two reasons behind Vallisneri's particular interest in examining the world of insects: one biological, relating to the origin of insects, and the other more specific, which is connected to the passion and curiosity Vallisneri has, that allows him to study the life of insects in minute detail. This makes him a forerunner of a modern-day naturalist. François Duchesneau, 'La controverse entre Andry et Vallisneri au sujet des vers parasites de l'homme' (135–163), focuses on the debate about the tapeworm between Andry and Vallisneri and shows, in the light of modern studies, the fragmented nature of their comments; Stefano Spataro, "'Ingannate, perché ingannato". Legittimità e limiti della raffigurazione parassitologica nelle ricerche vallisneriane' (165–196), also investigates the debate between Andry and Vallisneri, analysing the latter's theory that criticizes Andry's method; Guido Giglioni, 'La "verminosa famiglia". Contagio e animazione nella storia "medica e naturale" di Antonio Vallisneri' (197–224), surveys Vallisneri's position on the attempt to reconcile the modern experimental approach with the classical tradition by structuring his work as a dialogue between Malpighi and Plinio.

Giambattista Vico

Diritto universale, ed. Marco Veneziani, Rome, Edizioni di Storia e Letteratura, xxxii + 552 pp. reconstructs the genesis of *Diritto universale* exploring the first draft of the *Scienza Nuova*, which is essential for the evolution of Vico's thought. Antonio Gualtieri, 'Giambattista Vico e la formazione del linguaggio', *Dianoia*, 28:131–153, examines how Vico felt the need to reach for a strictly rationalistic view since his first works.