LEANDRO POLVERINI (1935–2023)

Leandro Polverini passed away in Rome on 18 April 2023; he was born in Castelnuovo dei Sabbioni (Arezzo) in 1935. He taught Roman History at Siena, Perugia, Rome La Sapienza and, most recently, at Roma 3. A graduate of the Catholic University in Milan, he also worked as a research fellow at the Istituto Italiano per la Storia Antica.

He has been one of the leading specialists in the history of classical scholarship of his generation. His work stands as an essential orientation point on the historiography on the ancient world between the nineteenth and the twentieth centuries, and on the position of classical scholarship in the broader development of Italian culture after the Unification. The series of volumes he edited on classical scholarship in nineteenth-century Italy, on Karl Julius Beloch, on Ettore Pais, on Rostovtzeff and Italy, on Momigliano and twentieth-century historiography, and on antiquarianism in Perugia have set a paragon of rigour and clarity, and remain invaluable to this day. His work on scholarly correspondences is a model of how to present and elucidate that kind of evidence. The edition of the letters exchanged between Gaetano De Sanctis and Arnaldo Momigliano, which appeared a few months ago, is an exemplary illustration of his mastery of a demanding scholarly genre, and a crowning moment of his longstanding engagement with those two great scholars.

Leandro Polverini’s body of work has been an inspiration to many; without the example he set, we doubt whether our idea of a journal entirely devoted to the history of classical scholarship would have quite materialised in the way it did. HCS loses an unfailingly supportive member of its Editorial Board, who followed the development of the journal with the insight, attention, and warmth that those who had the good fortune of working with him know well. We remember him with gratitude, and we shall miss him deeply.

L.C.
F.S.