



CLARA SILVIA ROERO - PASQUALE TUCCI
I Diari Berlinesi (1857-1859) di Giovanni Virginio Schiaparelli

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Giovanni Virginio Schiaparelli (1835-1910), astronomer, mathematician and historian of ancient science, was one of the first engineers of the Savoy Kingdom to get, during the Risorgimento, a scholarship in the prestigious University of Berlin and the Russian Pulkovo observatory. The Diaries he wrote in Berlin between 1857 and 1859 show the richness of science and culture, imbued with the innovative ideas of A. von Humboldt on the unity of knowledge. The lessons followed, the studies and the research carried out at the observatory, the reading of journals and magazines, the conversations and the frequentations with professors, assistants and scholars of various disciplines are recorded in a lively and brilliant way. The series of topics ranges from astronomy to meteorology, from terrestrial magnetism to the theory of radiation, from optics to geometry, from geography to literature, from religions to political history, from technology to cryptography. Schiaparelli also enjoys poetry, theater, literary works (Schiller, Hugo, Goethe, Sand, Poe, ...), music, art and likes to compose verses in various languages. A figure emerges from the Diaries of a passionate researcher, with a good baggage of knowledge acquired in the homeland and a great curiosity for the unexplored, as the curators have clearly highlighted, making use of the conspicuous unpublished manuscript documentation preserved in the Archives of Milanese observatory of Brera and in the Turin Archives.

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