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LUIGI MARIA GALANTI.
A FORGOTTEN GEOGRAPHER OF THE EARLY NEAPOLITAN 1800S.

Abstract - The paper focuses on Luigi Maria Galanti, a Neapolitan geographer of the first Nineteenth Century, who is almost unknown, because he was considered a follower of reformist period. He is the representative of novel age of the Naples geography, whose specificity should be investigated. Therefore we analyze the complex cultural climate of the early 1800s in Naples. Then the formation and the background of L. Galanti are illustrated, and the most important essays – *Geografia elementare* and *Geografia fisica e politica* – are studied in details. Galanti emerges as a key figure of the Neapolitan geography and, besides performing a formative role at the University and Polytechnic School, has the merit of the spreading of thoughts over geographical themes in the Neapolitan environment.

The early 1800s in Naples : the cultural climate.

Under a historical and cultural point of view, early 1800s are a complex period for Naples and the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies; it begins with the first Restoration, which has to cope with the Neapolitan Revolution of 1799; it experiences a brief but intense stage of fervour and renewal with the French Decade (1806-1815); it deals with the second Restoration - with the uprisings of 1820-21 and 1848 - harsh forms of repression and innovation attempts¹. In such a problematic context, which will dissolve into the new unified Italy, the intellectual class takes a similarly complex attitude. It is continuously referring to the Giambattista Vico and Antonio Genovesi's eminence, putting much effort into spreading their greatness outside the Neapolitan borders, although the power of the Enlightenment spirit is growing weaker here, while Romanticism is long in spreading at least until 1830 (Sansone, 1981, pp. 22-23), when it becomes clearer and more and more pressing the interest for what is happening in Europe (Galasso, Romeo, 1991). Such an orientation also reflects on philosophical studies; in fact the first three decades of 1800s are characterized by different intents trying to cluster around the French eclecticism, while the Kantian thinking is slow to infiltrate, at least not until the studies of Pasquale Galluppi and Ottavio Colecchi (Tessitore, 1981; Cacciatore, 1983).

A varying cultural climate is thus outlined, in which historical studies clearly emerge because the intellectual class measures up against the recent conflicts, beginning with Vincenzo Cuoco and his *Saggio storico sulla rivoluzione napoletana del 1799*. He, who considers history as the science par excellence, identifies three points - education, politics and morals - about which discusses a large number of scholars who keeps high the Neapolitan historiography profile (Biscardi, 2003; Tessitore, 2002). Thus Cuoco can «introduce a series of very important issues, both in the Milan culture and in that of Naples, which will lead to a deep maturation of those conceptions regarding the human being and his awareness of living in a society he is a part of» (Martirano, 2009, p. 32).

Therefore such a slant is the answer, albeit theoretical, to the hard political troubles of Southern Italy. However, a more marked attention to history seems to make the Genovesi lesson go forgotten: he had

given importance to geography, showing its epistemological effectiveness as for «Southern Italy which was to achieve a new exposure to the eyes of rulers and intellectuals » (Sarno, 2012b, p. 224). Genovesi values geography² in the range of Enlightenment, aiming at building a new political-economical project for the Kingdom of Naples, a project shared with Ferdinando Galiani, Giuseppe Maria Galanti, Francesco Longano. It's in the last decades of 1700s in fact that G.M. Galanti's *Descrizione geografica e politica delle Sicile*³ takes shape, the Reale Ufficio Topografico becomes operative for want of Galiani and Longano's reformist ideas come into practice. Vincenzo Cuoco⁴ himself is committed in turning Genovesi's teachings into political action, while the academic institutionalization of geography begins at the University of Naples⁵. However, this time of geography seems to dissolve as well as that of other sciences⁶.

Nevertheless, recent studies are trying to retrace orientation maps, schools, institutions, biographies in order to put into frame the different sciences and tendencies here followed, thus bringing to light again experiences and studies now fallen into oblivion (Mazzola, 2009; Capaccioli, Longo, 2004).

The reasons for this are probably various: the attention for historiography has overshadowed other fields and circulation of Southern Italy books has always been limited. In addition, Unity has thwarted local paths raising the need for a common language among Italian scholars: a call, whose promoter is the Neapolitan geographer Ferdinando De Luca himself for example (Baldacci, 1975).

Therefore geography is affected by these problems even though it had been relevant during the reformist period and in particular one can observe a real oblivion for the geographer Luigi Maria Galanti, who is nevertheless dominating the Neapolitan scene with his educational commitment and his publications between 1805 and 1836. This is why it seems worthwhile making a first profile of him by lingering over his most important works and focusing on his main themes.

The L. Galanti's texts covered here are: *Geografia elementare* (1814), *Istituzioni di geografia fisica e politica* (1812) *Geografia fisica e politica* (1833) and the translation of *Pinkerton's Modern Geography* (1805). Other useful sources have been the eulogies written for L. Galanti's death by Ulloa (1836) and Filipponi (1836), a review by Ferdinando De Luca (1834) as well as three geography works circulating in the editorial network over the same period: L. C. Federici's *Lezioni di geografia* (1811), G. Umili's *Elementi di geografia antica e moderna per uso dei fanciulli* (1816) and C. Bilotta's *Geografia elementare per uso dei fanciulli* (1830).

Luigi Maria Galanti: a life for geography

Although unknown today, in 1836 no fewer than two eulogies were written at L. Galanti's death by Pietro Calà Ulloa e Alfonso Filipponi. As written by the former, Luigi Maria Galanti is born on the first day of 1765 at Santa Croce, a town of Molise back then, which later on passed to the Benevento province. At the age of twelve he wears the Benedictine cloth of Montevergine showing a natural tendency for theological studies as well as mathematics and physics. On his turn Alfonso Filipponi, besides remarking the fact he was coy and gentle, points out that L. Galanti delves deeper into both scientific and liberal arts studies as a self-taught and devotes himself not only to old languages but also to English and French. As he grows up, he comes to the decision of being ordained and enjoys a period of meditation between the Montevergine abbey and the Curia Romana from 1777 and 1805. In Rome he is appreciated for a short work, *Piano per i monasteri e i conventi della Repubblica napoletana*, written in 1799, through which he would like to safeguard ecclesiastical institutions in that historic moment.

Outlining his youth, both biographers address the problem of clarifying where the interest for geography comes from. Ulloa stresses out two important experiences: the appointment to the theology lecturer position in Capua and the cooperation to the visit to Southern provinces with his brother Giuseppe Maria for the drafting of the *Descrizione*. In Capua, L. Galanti discovers his vocation for

teaching and up against the scarce knowledge of his pupils he decides to educate them to letters, mathematics and geography; on the other hand, travelling across the provinces of the Kingdom, he begins to take «great care for geographical studies» (Ulloa, 1836, p. 4). Troubles of Southern Italy and the need in common with his brother for identifying their causes and solutions make geography fundamental to L. Galanti's eyes, who thus comes in touch with the above-mentioned Genovesi's disciples and companions. Furthermore it is interesting the fact according to which he wanted to correct the ignorance in geography of his pupils.

Filipponi, on his turn, while describing the L. Galanti's juvenile fervour for studies, addresses the same problem and introduces another hypothesis: the scholar picks up geography because he holds it as the discipline capable of explaining «the very dark clouds that lock up the sky of Europe» and «the true causes for the foul deeds which reduced Europe to a circus of beasts» (Filipponi, 1836, p. 6).

It is in fact «the science conceived to suddenly connect the extreme places of a pole to the other's; it is the one that addresses the commerce (...) and sheds the light upon the driving force of peoples and governments; (...), after all, geography too shows in its eternal instability how furious passions turn into ruins and ashes, solitudes and wastelands the most prosperous cities» (Ibid., p. 7).

Geography allows to understand the territorializing processes of peoples, but most importantly how men reshape Earth's landscapes with their frequently violent actions. The thought is strictly linked to the moment it's written, though the reference to commerce is a clear heritage from the Genovesi's *Lezioni di Commercio*. Therefore L. Galanti chooses this discipline because it offers keys of interpretation for the contemporary world he lives in and because of an epistemological urge, shared with others scholars, to understand their times and the instability of human events. However, he is not looking for an answer just for himself but also for the education of youths that seems important to him after the Capua experience. In order to back this vision up he produces two translations: the Pinkerton's *Geografia moderna o sia descrizione storica, politica, civile e naturale di tutte le parti della terra formata sopra un nuovo piano*, publishing it, extended and improved, in 1805, and Millot's *Storia Antica e Moderna* in 1809.

The scholar implements his good knowledge of English and French and we'll see why. Scottish John Pinkerton (1758-1826), born in Edinburgh, is a versatile intellectual, who decides to dedicate himself to writing geography books emulating William Guthrie (1708-1770), other Scottish geographer who was dominating the market with his best selling *Geographical Grammar*, published in 1770 (Mayhew, 1999). Pinkerton wants to make the discipline more enjoyable by changing the approach, useful for the new European political framework, after French Revolution (Withers, 2008).

As clarified by Wilcock (1974), Pinkerton, willing to be the *English Strabo*, takes on describing each state and all that pertains to it unitarily and with a fluid style. He obtains a such success that his work, *Modern Geography: A Description of the Empires, Kingdoms, States, and Colonies* (1802), is soon translated into French.

L. Galanti considers him the Strabo of his times too because he's able to describe landscapes and peoples in an incisive and pithy way, understanding the merit of Pinkerton, stressed by Mayhew too (2005): the communicative ability. In L. Galanti's opinion Pinkerton, although gaining from the most up-to-date sources, several voyage reports and specialized publications, can deliver the reader a synthesis pleasing to read.

In the introductory note of the work so he denotes: «the great art of making geography interesting, like history, is that of containing it within the principal objects (...). The most classical works of geography that we have, are written with a more topographic slant rather than geographic and make the knowledge grow weaker in triviality with trifles of any sort. You skim through such a work like a dictionary without learning anything. Pinkerton is the first of the modern geography writers to understand the secret of the works of the ancients: say all and be short⁷».

Style is not the only thing that matters. In fact L. Galanti specifies that he has overhauled Pinkerton's text to update its data and revise the part concerning Italy. The most interesting aspect is the decision of inserting Malte-Brun's *Sommario Cronologico dei progressi della geografia* in the volume to document the most recent geographic discoveries and he proudly declares his will of being different from the French version of Pinkerton essay, which was provided with Lacroix's *Geografia matematica*.

C. Malte-Brun (1776-1826), Danish, lives in Paris where he establishes *Les Annales de Voyage* aiming at setting French geography free from pedantry (Broc, 1975). He becomes famous with the work *Précis de géographie Universelle*, publishing the first volumes between 1810 and 1817, with J.J. N. Huot who would continue its work (Wilcock, 1974).

L. Galanti points out that he has chosen to insert the Malte-Brun's *Sommario* to show the 'path of the discipline' and the peculiarities of the most recent one, paying particular attention to the relation of geography with statistics and politics. He illustrates that the word statistics, deriving from state, is used in Italy, England and Germany, while in France Political Geography is in vogue and spreading: the terminological disquisition is preparatory for a follow-up inspection about the relation statistics/political geography.

The didactic commitment and the interest for political facts make also clear the reason for the other translation. As showed by Bianchi (2003), the writings of the French abbot Claude François Millot (1726-1785) were considered as the most recommended for the education of the young, in the early decades of the nineteenth century. It must be cleared that here L. Galanti only acts as a translator but the Millot's work contributes to fulfil his necessity to comprehend human behaviour: this urge is showed by Filippini and accounted for by the Neapolitan cultural environment.

Now we can get back to the reasons why L. Galanti chose geography. Both biographers are probably right: he understands the importance of geography in the environment of his family, not only by attending his brother's work, but also because he comprehended the Genovesi's lesson and the outcomes achieved by the other companions. On the other hand, the strong irregularities of European history of the early 1800s themselves, which clearly reflect in the happenings of Naples and the Kingdom, seem to leave a mark in his awareness and induce him to look for reasons and explanations on a larger scale, even through translations. Besides, though discovering this knowledge related to the socio-economic issues of Southern Italy, political hurdles Giuseppe met while drafting the *Descrizione* don't help him in this sense⁸.

In other words, he prefers the theoretical level, aware of the cloth he is wearing and the role he is about to hold. In fact, returning from Rome in 1806, he is nominated professor of Geography at the Collegio del Salvatore, which was bound to the University of Naples back then, continuing the institutionalization started by Genovesi. Here he can spread his geographical knowledge and take care of publications which grant him the position of prime professor of Geography of the Royal Polytechnic and Military School⁹, where he is also teaching history and rhetoric, but he is committed in *dictating geography* (Ulloa, 1936, p. 5), as a proof of his authority.

Here begins the most intense and prolific period for L. Galanti. In fact, the double didactic task - interrupted only in 1821 due to the revolutionary uprisings - becomes the driving force of his geography publications, though he doesn't either the importance of the linguistic education of his pupils - arranging the Sacy's *Estratto generale della grammatica*¹⁰ (1813b) and a *Scelta di lettere per uso del Reale Istituto Politecnico e Militare* (1815) - nor the juridical one, introducing a handbook entitled *Catechismo Costituzionale per uso del Regno Unito delle Sicilie* (1820).

But these are secondary writings, his attention is toward geography. In 1807 he publishes *Istituzioni di geografia fisica e politica*, a work published in three editions very close to each other (1820, 1812, 1819) and undergone a real revision in the last years of his life. In fact in 1833 he publishes the fifth edition, revised and expanded, entitled *Geografia fisica e politica*. On the other hand he takes care of presenting a basically more agile text *Geografia elementare*, published in 1814 and in fifteen editions later until 1854. The author in the preface of the eighth edition (1828) even hints at counterfeit editions.

As if it were not enough, he disposes a concise *Quadro statistico dell'Europa* in 1809 and is curator of two atlases: the first published in 1813 by the Gabinetto Letterario of Naples, made up of 32 maps, the second published in 1836 in cooperation with Giosué Russo, consisting in 30 maps. Furthermore, he revises his brother's guidebook *Napoli e contorni*, re-publishing it in 1829. Ulloa also refers of unfinished and never published works such as a *Dizionario della geografia antica o comparata*, since he died in 1836 in Naples. In conclusion, L. Galanti's dynamism is evident and the various editions of his principal works,

which we will go through in the next paragraphs, testify their large circulation. But now it seems worthwhile trying to characterize L. Galanti's geography background.

He followed from up close the geo-political orientation of his brother, who in turn had begun in the wake of Büsching¹¹, not leaning towards statistics though. He is familiar with ancient geographers among whom he praises Strabo. Among the modern ones he takes in regard Cluverius, Varenius as well as Danville for cartography. Then, besides Pinkerton, Guthrie and Malte-Brun, he adverts to English geographer James Rennell (1742-1830), as well as the French Barbié du Bocage (1760-1825), a historical geography enthusiast. He obviously knows Balbi's studies, mentioned in the essays devoted to political geography.

Therefore the scholar moves deftly among old and modern geographers, showing to relate with the English and French environment, while the German one remains in the background; we have already spoken about the slow penetration of the Kantian thinking in the Neapolitan context; as regards Humboldt, L. Galanti knows him only indirectly, since he is mentioned in the Malte-Brun's *Sommario*.

L. Galanti's readings are probably driven by his knowing of English and French. Besides, the detachment from statistics as well as his brother's and Büsching's example drifts him apart from German geography, being therefore unconceivable to think of him as an *ante litteram disciple of Ritter* as instead he was later on considered (Brancaccio 1991). Actually, the Neapolitan environment and the need to search for history dynamics guide him toward political geography, while the didactic commitment urges him to plan a base text, elementary level, and a specialized one.

The “*Geografia Elementare*”

As said before, L. Galanti considers the essay *Geografia Elementare* a testimony of his attitude, which differentiates him from other compendiums also published in Naples¹². In the preface the scholar first clarifies the uttermost importance of geography: «whatever field of human knowledge needs it, since all is bound to this earth we dwell¹³». Geography may appear complicated since geographical descriptions recall such a huge variety of notions that it makes it a universal science which has to interact with economics, history, culture, politics but also with mathematics as for dealing with places positions. But he points out that geography, though well interacting with so many disciplines, must be limited to those objects that have a tighter bond with its main purpose. After all, L. Galanti believes that its specific objects are physical and economical-political geography. He then illustrates the discipline partition: mathematical geography, useful to measure areas and distances, physical and natural geography, which is about the various spatial components, political geography, which deals with nations and their internal divisions.

After these preliminary remarks, he also produces hints under a didactic point of view. He wants to work on children curiosity and on map reading. 'Eyes and memory' are the two strategies recommended by L. Galanti, which have to be trained through a constant use of cartography. In fact, not without a shade of pride, he mentions his atlases publication and he is also attracted by technological innovations such as the *artificial globe*¹⁴. Also interesting are the advises to teachers: do not tire pupils with weary notions but aim for few but fundamental notions.

Such a dense preface opens an as much hefty essay. In fact, there is an articulate introduction divided into three parts. L. Galanti gives basic notions about mathematical, physical and political geography. The third part illustrates what is intended for state and how it is organized each and every one of them, then what is intended for city, town, castle, what is the role of population, how many forms of government are there and how many religions.

Such a mass of notions is presented systematically, in fact the essay is structured in a question-and-answer pattern. Here is an example: «What are the boundaries of Europe and its extension? Europe is 2240 miles in length from SW to NE, from Cape St. Vincent in Portugal to the Ural Mountains, and 1836 miles in width from N to S, from the North Cape in Lapland to Cape Matapan in Morea¹⁵». As an alternative, some topics are introduced by sentences like: « Say extension and boundaries of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies», «Number these provinces with their main cities¹⁶». Thanks to this set up,

L. Galanti puts on the right path teachers and pupils and, with the greatest patience, he wants to prevent doubts and approximation and to give an answer for any questions. When he has to present different states, the principal questions are repeated, thus it becomes a method of work.

The work ends with a chapter devoted to the armillary sphere, according to a geographical order moving from the known to the unknown. This set up differentiates his essay from others also present in the Neapolitan editorial circuit such as Luigi Carlo Federici's *Lezioni di geografia* of 1811 and Giuseppe Umili's *Elementi di geografia antica, e moderna per uso dei fanciulli* of 1816. The former proposes an antique setting, in fact he opens the essay with the chapter devoted to the armillary sphere according to the well-established tradition of the previous decades; besides, he basically reports just the principal data on every nation or territory, even presented as mere lists; the latter is a very slim text expressing contents vaguely. Furthermore, these two texts' prefaces are not the outcome of an epistemological path as the L. Galanti's one because their authors only desire to produce a handbook for geographical notions. Better framed is Clemente Bilotta's essay *Geografia elementare per uso dei fanciulli* of 1830 which proceeds by a question-and-answer scheme, as L. Galanti had done.

Therefore, this latter gradually guides his readers to the knowledge of the world, emphasizing the connections between natural and anthropic data. In other words, young pupils don't have to lose themselves in a plethora of notions but deal with those elements that clarify the connection each people has with its own territory, according to the vision expressed in the *Istituzioni: geography is a science of relationships*¹⁷.

Political Geography essays

L. Galanti devotes himself to political geography being aware of the absence of any competitors in the Neapolitan environment. As touched on before, since editions are numerous, it has been held suitable to take into account that of 1812, dedicated to the Polytechnic School pupils, and the last one of 1835.

The basic structure remains the same, though it is extended over time. He presents general notions of mathematical and physical geography, then he anticipates a chapter about the basic concepts of political geography: nations' names, their form of government, territorial organization (cities, towns etc.), population, military force, social classes and commerce, culture, religion and language. Once established the general principles, descriptions of nations are realized coherently, outlining their natural and political features but trying to interpret the data in such a way to get pupils used to consider tendencies and perspectives. According to the Pinkerton's lesson, each nation is proposed synthetically, giving an overall view rather than a mere list of notions, in virtue of the idea that geography doesn't have to be limited to a *blunt nomenclature* because it is *a science of relationships: you'd deprive it of any beauty isolating it*¹⁸.

Anyway there are some differences: for examples in 1833 he adds a paragraph about cartography and itinerary measures, as well as climate charts. Actually, apart from the necessary updates due to the twenty years passed between the two editions, apart from the extension of the part relative to the principles of political geography, the other real difference is in the geographical partition of Europe. In the 1812 edition he divides European geography into Southern, Middle and Northern, while in the last edition in Western and Eastern. It is necessary to add that Eastern Europe includes Greece, European Turkey and Russia, while all the rest is Western. We can reasonably suppose that the geo-physical parameter initially used is coherently abandoned because of political events which unsettle the Restoration such as the independence of Greece from the Ottoman Empire (1830) and the popular riots in Russia of the same period.

The scholar works on the same book in order to revise it each time, also taking into account some Balbi's works - for instance some studies about Portugal¹⁹ - but mainly because of his attention toward cultural aspects such as languages and religions²⁰. However, L. Galanti doesn't leave behind his interest in political geography and, comparing the 1812 and 1833 editions, one has the possibility to bring into focus his personal conception, which permeates the whole work.

In both cases so he opens the preface: «In all our knowledge geography is the most dependent from the fickleness of this world's happenings²¹» In other words, geography is a continuously-evolving science because of *the spasms of this small globe and the industry of men*.

However, if in the 1812 preface L. Galanti analytically delves into the spasms of the Earth - floods, inundations, earthquakes etc - and then describes the burden of human actions, in that of 1833 synthesizes natural events to make more room for the human ones: «The destructive scourge of war (...) enlarges, reduces or makes the ancient domains disappear (...). Other daily and anything-but-small changes are made by the progressive or retrograde condition of nations²²». If the political or military action is continuously reshaping the Earth, moreover in a few years, as it is happening to the European framework, L. Galanti values the human role. Considering such an instability, well-centred by Filippini, he is aware that a modern geography is establishing itself. «Therefore revolutions of nature, mankind, new discoveries, peace treaties, subjecting the globe to perpetual incidents, ensure to be a vain research that which would look for the present conditions in old geography books. But now more than ever new works are needed²³». If in 1812 this concept was already present, in 1833 we find a very interesting remark: not only new works are necessary, but they have to take the cue from the numerous journey experiences and the *statistic researches which bring new treasures to science every day*²⁴. Begun while dealing with the Pinkerton's work, the statistical reflection becomes explicit here: it is a sort of basic research from which the geographer draws similarly to explorers' accounts, but it doesn't coincide with geography²⁵. Statistical researches are an essential premise which can find the right collocation thanks to the capabilities of synthesis and interpretation of the geographer. So what is geography? The *scene of the world and his inhabitants in a determined period*²⁶. It is therefore necessary its refoundation because of various discoveries, new studies, but also political changes and especially peace treaties. He identifies its peculiarity in comparison with geology since natural sciences deal with a «certain material certainty», while geography «procures us a vivid image of the whole Earth, putting before our eyes the always varied spectacle of this theatre of our brief miseries and the other one, constant, of nature²⁷». This passage appears similar in both prefaces, except for a particular: in 1812 nature is defined as immutable, in 1833 constant, signalling a sort of revision of the vision of nature. So he then defines his conception of geography and the conclusion is identical in both the prefaces: «Geography is entirely tied to the study of the human being, of his customs, institutions, industry; and in its physical part, not admitting but proven realities, it holds back geological dreams». Therefore, geography is the study of the relationship between mankind and the Earth, but it differentiates from history because this latter «puts before our eyes memorable events of the past, the former takes us to all the peoples and all the climates, making us compatriot of the universe²⁸».

So the men-Earth node *in real time* is the founding core of geography, which can't be considered but as political geography. That is the reason because he *ties* the discipline to the art of ruling men and thinks that such idea must become knowledge, inasmuch as an extremely useful conception, particularly for the young people future ruling class.

Conclusions

If it still appears necessary to examine in depth the works and thinking of Luigi Galanti, for instance even for traces of cultural geography, from this synthetic portrait already emerge his inspired intuitions towards geography. It is a *relationships science*, so he particularly stresses the relations between natural and anthropic data. Moreover, it is the science capable of describing the variability of human scenarios and their political instability as long as geographers can actualise their writings. For these reasons, the object of his thinking - the relation between geography and politics - is painstakingly engaging him and he is continuously revising his *Istituzioni*. Only after about twenty years from the first draft he develops the edition he conceives as definitive, entitled *Geografia fisica e politica*, no coincidence that it is praised in a detailed review by Ferdinando De Luca in 1834.

Besides, L. Galanti addresses the problem of the transmission of the discipline and manners to facilitate its study. As cleared in his comments by Filipponi (1836), he takes also care of the exactness of the geographic language, raising a question which is particularly felt in the early 1880s ((Dainville, 1964).

Unlike Giuseppe Maria Galanti, he intends to contribute under an epistemological point of view for the systematization and spreading of the discipline, for his institutional offices as well, valuing the historical and humanistic paradigm (Quaini, 2012). Also interesting is the consideration about the differences between statistics and political geography. The former analytically deals with the economic and demographic power of nations, while political geography shows *the moral condition of the peoples* and achieves its aim if it is proposed in reasonable synthesis.

In fact, if the basic question of all his production is why the world context is continuously changing, he couldn't be attracted from the detailed statistical analysis. Neapolitan historiography culture plays a fundamental role, however L. Galanti wants to distinguish himself from it, searching in the spatial dimension the answers that others were looking for in the process of the events.

His link with Neapolitan culture likely appeared to be a limit, increased by his resolute decision not to take part to any form of conspiracy. Also limited is the cultural selection L. Galanti made in favour of the English and French context that prevents him to deal with the wide range of European geography, although this is a common mistake. In fact, the influence of «Alexander von Humboldt and Karl Ritter, who would be destined to renovate nineteenth century geography in contents and purposes, whose influence is already perceptible around 1830 in other European countries, will be felt a bit later» in Italy. (Luzzana Caraci, 1987, p. 48). Moreover he matures a complex conception - the necessity of a political geography ready to renovate in order to follow human actions - that might have looked sticky and unfeasible on the edge of the rising of the positivistic geography.

In anyway, L. Galanti, besides performing a formative role at the University and Polytechnic School, has the merit of the spreading of thoughts over geographical themes in the Neapolitan environment and of the explanation that the reality cannot be interpreted only through history.

Therefore his long-forgotten works are testimony of geographical experiences which we must recall (Cerreti, 2009) and of the necessity of reconstructing natural paths which contributed in spreading ideas, concepts and values.

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¹ For the historical and cultural background see Galasso's works about the Bourbon, Napoleonic and Risorgimental Southern Italy, 2007 a e 2007 b, and Pontieri, 1981, on the Neapolitan cultural history.

² Genovesi's contribution to geography is not minimal at all and one can find an adequate collocation in his publications. In fact in the second volume of the treatise *Elementa physicae experimentalis usui tironum aptata*, published posthumously, he dedicates the fifth book to geography; see Sarno 2012a.

³ G. M. Galanti, who works on *Descrizione* between 1785 and 1795, left the book unfinished and we are referring to the Assante and Demarco edition, 1969, in which are gathered all the drafts of the author.

⁴ For a further reading on the diverse figures mentioned, see Sarno, 2012b. As for Reale Ufficio Topografico see Valerio, 2002.

⁵ Thanks to the reform proposed by Genovesi, in 1777 the university chair of Geography and Nautical Science held by Don Lodovico Marrano. In 1790 is also established a chair of Geography and History held by Giovanni De Moja. See Blessich, 1896 and Amodeo, 1902.

⁶ For the traditional historiography vision, centered on the backward scientific Southern Italy culture, and for a panorama of the most recent studies focused on the vivacity of experiences, personalities and Southern schools, see the essay by Mazzola, 2009, which presents articulated reconstructions of various sciences, and then Torrini 1989 and Capaccioli, Longo, 2004.

⁷ See Pinkerton, 1805, Volume I, p. III.

⁸ As clarified by Assante e Demarco (1969), when the work of Giuseppe Galanti began to create troubles the Bourbon government, he was indirectly held back and no longer funded.

⁹ The School was founded in Naples in 1787.

¹⁰ Silvestre, baron of Sacy (1758-1838), born and lived in Paris, was a eminent linguist.

¹¹ We are referring to Büsching's *Geografia*, re-made by Giuseppe Maria Galanti, Napoli, Società letteraria e tipografica, 1782. The *Introduzione alla cognizione fisica d'Europa* and the first volume of Büsching's *Nuova geografia* were translated into Italian by Christian Joseph Jagemann and printed in Florence in 1769, then in Venice in 1773. Galanti defines Büsching's geo-statistical works as a new kind of geography, he appreciates their setup but criticizes the part concerning Italy thinking it is imperfect and flawed. He takes care of giving an exact description of Italy which would then be added to the new edition of the Büsching's work.

¹² In Naples arose a tradition according to which teachers used to teach in their private studios and publish their handbooks.

¹³ See L. Galanti, *Geografia Elementare*, Napoli, 1846, p. III.

¹⁴ Luigi Galanti refers to “machine that shows the Earth in a small way”.

¹⁵ See L. Galanti, *Geografia Elementare*, Napoli, 1846, p. 16.

¹⁶ *Ibid*, p. 21.

¹⁷ See L. Galanti, Prefazione a *Geografia fisica e politica*, Napoli, 1833, p. VIII.

¹⁸ *Ibidem*.

¹⁹ Balbi's reference essay is *Essai statistique sur le Royaume du Portugal et D'Argave*, Paris, 1822.

²⁰ Balbi's reference essay is *Atlas ethnographique du globe*, Paris, 1826.

²¹ See L. Galanti, Preface to *Istituzioni di geografia fisica e politica*, Napoli, 1812, p. 3 and L. Galanti, Preface to *Geografia fisica e politica*, Napoli, 1833, p. V.

²² See L. Galanti, Preface to *Geografia fisica e politica*, Napoli, 1833, p. V.

²³ See L. Galanti, Preface to *Istituzioni di geografia fisica e politica*, Napoli, 1812, p. 2.

²⁴ See L. Galanti, Preface to a *Geografia fisica e politica*, Napoli, 1833, p. V.

²⁵ For the importance of statistics in the nineteenth see Lando, 2009.

²⁶ See L. Galanti, Preface to a *Geografia fisica e politica*, Napoli, 1833, p. V.

²⁷ See L. Galanti, Preface to *Istituzioni di geografia fisica e politica*, Napoli, 1812, p. 3 and L. Galanti, Preface to *Geografia fisica e politica*, Napoli, 1833, p. V.

²⁸ See L. Galanti Preface to *Geografia fisica e politica*, Napoli, 1833, p. VI.

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