

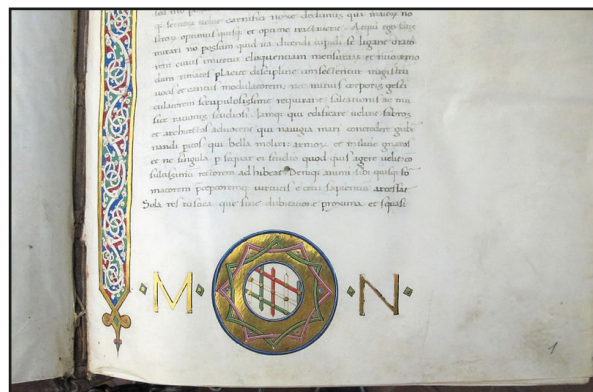
## FOREWORD

### HABENT SUA FATA LIBELLI – BOOKS HAVE THEIR DESTINY

Really, books have their own fate, and so do journals let them be scientific periodicals or volumes of other kind of literature. This fate is driven by two powers. One is the value of the material published however the other is that this value shall be approved by the satisfaction of the reader.

Mark Twain describes a peculiar situation in one of his evergreen short stories titled “How I edited an agricultural paper”. He realised two facts: “I did not take temporary editorship of an agricultural paper without misgivings. Neither would a landsman take command of a ship without misgivings”. Of course, this bitter joke of him has a message for all of us. He points to the responsibility of authors and editors. Reading any press articles we meet mistakes regularly. Some of them are of accidental origin while some others were born to drive the readers’ mind to definite directions. This latter is a sort of disinformation. A scientific periodical has to be honest, precise, thorough and reliable. We believe that *Columella* may face these expectations. That is why the cooperation of authors and editors is supported by a third party; the reviewer. We try to keep in mind the old rudiment of wisdom; the quality of any book depends on the strength of the reviewer.

The present volume provides the reader with a patchwork of scientific information. A journal, which is dedicated to agricultural and



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environmental sciences has to cover a broad field of research. So does the present issue. There are papers dealing with novel results obtained in the field of soil science. Also, we may get acquainted with results of new plant protection and crop production techniques. A series of papers inform us about the archeobotanical features of a field crop. And there are various papers dealing with questions of plant physiology and genetics.

We do hope, that the readers of this volume will benefit from the papers presented. Also, we have the hope, that a reader of this volume may be author of further volumes of *Columella*.

*Márton Jolánkai*  
guest editor