

THE STORY OF A BOOK: “ROBERTO ASSAGIOLI, PSYCHOSYNTHESIS AND TUSCANY. THE ROOTS OF A UNIVERSAL THOUGHT”

Translated by Greta Bianchi

Elena Morbidelli

Often, when presenting a book, we speak of its intrinsic value, but also of the intent that the authors—in this case, myself and Alessandro Berti—set out to achieve. With this article, I become the narrator of this literary adventure, born some 8 years ago, which, by some inscrutable design, sees the light of day precisely on the occasion of the Centenary of the birth of Psychosynthesis, 1926/2026.



In 2018 I was at the Psychosynthesis Center in Florence, located inside the Institute's villa, just a few steps from its secretariat; I was there as a tutor for psychologists and had recently finished an interview with a psychologist who wanted to do her internship at the Center. Once the meeting was over, I heard from the entrance Lucia Bassignana's ringing voice, laughter, and a passionate dialogue—but who was she talking to? I was curious. I entered the secretariat room and was introduced to a young lady, an official from the Tuscany Region who had come to research an alleged meeting between Assagioli and a figure belonging to Indian culture at the time of British domination.

The lady in question was named Francesca Cecconi, an enthusiast of “literary archaeology”; she did not find what she was looking for, but, taken by the discovery of this medical psychiatrist—a Florentine by adoption—she peppered Lucia with questions about him and Psychosynthesis. Swept up in the growing enthusiasm

and the rapport born between the two, I too joined the conversation amid a flurry of praise, gratitude, and testimonies on the effectiveness of the psychosynthetic model and its founder. At a certain point, Francesca Cecconi blurted out: “Why, given that you are so passionate and also have the qualifications, don't you write a book for the *Edizioni dell'Assemblea* series of the Tuscany Region that makes Roberto Assagioli's life and work known?” Lucia and I looked at each other, surprised and perplexed at the same time, but the official's persistence began to arouse our interest.

In 2016, the new Pietro Leopoldo Library of Tuscany was inaugurated in the prestigious Palazzo Cerretani in Piazza Unità d'Italia, a stone's throw from Santa Maria Novella, near the station of the same name. The *Edizioni dell'Assemblea* promote the identity and culture of Tuscany. The published texts can be consulted online, and paper copies are given free of charge to anyone who requests them; in addition, the books are entered into the circuits of all regional and national libraries. Assagioli, a Florentine by adoption, had had contacts and influence in the Tuscan territory, and could therefore be counted among the most illustrious witnesses of the Region's cultural fabric.

How could we refuse such a request! Lucia and I immediately set to work drawing up a work plan; she would write the biographical part and I a brief introduction to the psychosynthetic path, aimed primarily at non-experts. Having completed all bureaucratic obligations, we submitted an application to the Region for the printing and publication of a book illustrating Assagioli's life and work.

It seemed that within a few months the project would go through, but life takes no account of human good intentions and planning. After we began working, each on her own part, the long period of Covid began. This brought a halt to many activities, and to our project as well. After the pandemic, many things changed, especially within the Institute.

Lucia Bassignana's duties increased significantly. Among other things, at the time, as she does today,

she held various roles within the Institute—in addition to secretary: trainer, facilitator, teacher—and she was literally overwhelmed by a heavy workload.

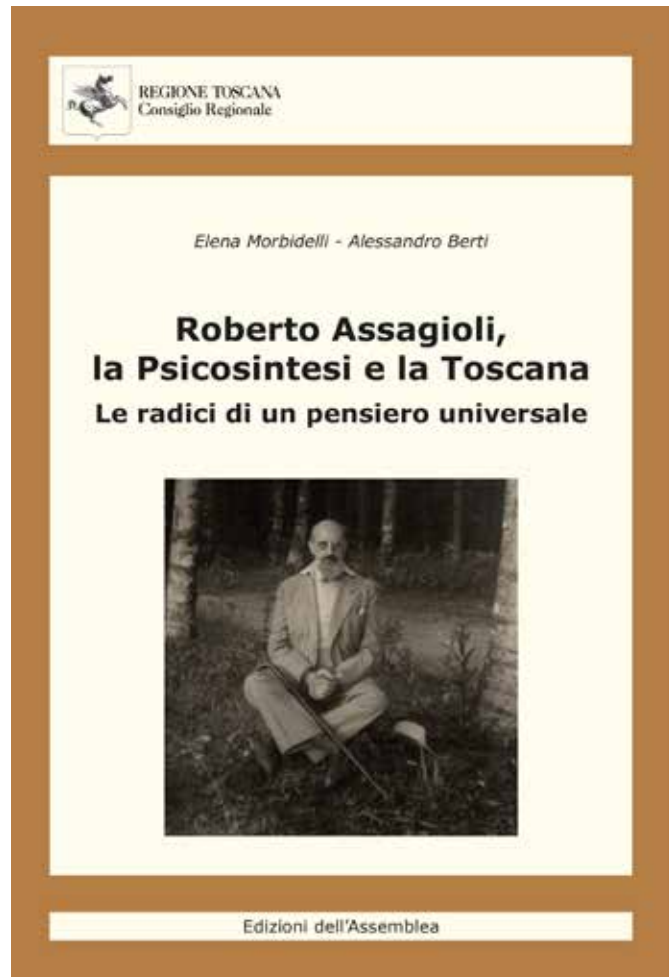
Unfortunately, after a while, Lucia informed me that her work for the Institute was totally absorbing her and, with regret, she had to give up writing the biographical part. I was very sorry about this, especially because of how the idea of writing the book together had come about, and because we were losing an important opportunity to disseminate Assagioli's thought. I hinted at this regret of mine during a meeting of the Florence Center; my part was almost finished, but the biography was missing.

Rosella D'Amato, who was present at the meeting—and to whom I am immensely grateful—suggested I contact Alessandro Berti, an expert biographer of Roberto Assagioli, and ask him if he was available to complete this publication project. No sooner said than done.

Alessandro immediately accepted with enthusiasm. We began working together and, through meetings, research, and whatever was necessary, we proceeded with the drafting of the book, which had almost become a mirage. Rosella, as an expert librarian, helped us on several occasions with research and suggestions.

Once finished, to honor the origin of this project, we wanted to re-include Lucia, who kindly made herself available. Not only did she read the texts—also taking on the role of proofreader—but she wrote a splendid introduction that crowned, even if only in part, the desire to see her take part in this small contribution which, together with the many publications on Psychosynthesis, aims to make Roberto Assagioli's message known and widespread.

I could conclude by stating that this book represents a project of will brought to completion; we firmly believed in the goodness of its purpose, pursued with determination and perseverance, and in fact, it coincided with the anniversary of the Centenary of the birth of Psychosynthesis. Like any act of will that comes to a successful conclusion, after a long gestation and various setbacks, this little book has brought joy and satisfaction to those who wrote it and, I hope, also to those who—passionate about Psychosynthesis and beyond—will consult it through its prestigious bibliographic placement in the *Edizioni dell'Assemblea* of the Tuscany Region.



Link

to request the book from the Tuscany Region

https://git.consiglio.regione.toscana.it/richieda/pubblicazione_scheda.jsf