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Abstracts

ALBERTO QUADRIO CURZIO, CLAUDIA ROTONDI, Incivilimento per lo sviluppo: l'Istituto Lombardo e Carlo Cattaneo

A question – perhaps provocative – that we wish to ask nowadays is: do scientific Academies serve a purpose, are they useful and, above all, do they make sense in the current context? In this paper, the answer to these questions pass from the analysis of some economic issues dealt with in the long history of the Istituto Lombardo, Accademia di Scienze e Lettere. In the “Lombardo” economics is not only a topic of scientific study but also as a bridge between the scientific-technological and the juridical-philosophical culture. This may also be the current usefulness of Academies: to guide a form of wisdom aimed at civilizing, bearing in mind the history of science. Among the members of the Istituto Lombardo an emblematic figure is that of Carlo Cattaneo who made important contributions for understanding the connection between the scientific debate, its role in the civilization, and economic development in Italy and Europe.