

## *Silvia Amati Sas*

Dear friends ,

this is my farewell letter as president of Eatga. I have to begin by saying that I am pleased about what Sandra , Velia , Elizabeth and myself ( with all the Board) have obtained in these 8 years of institutional administrative and scientific working for EATGA. It has been an interesting an adventurous experience for us all.

To say it very short, in finishing our mandate, my feeling is that we have not only maintained the” going on being“ of our association but we have obtained for Eatga a “new past”. In fact we began our work after a critical period in which micro institutional power problems had brought Eatga to an impasse which Giovanna had assumed before us ; at that time many members left and others wanted to close the association. There was idealization of Eatga’s beginning , and paradoxically the “old past” was in risk of becoming a heavy mortgage. That is why I say that a “new past” has been included in Eatga’s institutional experiential and scientific luggage... to be continued.

Looking backwards I can say now what has been my spontaneous policy as president .First I did not permit myself to get too much interested in the immediate past problems, and just took a position of trusting the possibilities of Eatga’s existence, even if I assumed that it was not clear for me what transculturality is as a concept, and leaving it always as an enigma in need to be solved with the traditional Eatgamethodology of the freedom of different languages in all organized events.

We have received what was proposed by members, without wanting to give a precise tendency to eventual lines of research, although we have perhaps accentuate the interest on some concepts as prejudice or belonging, trying to refer more to group concepts than to intra psychic concepts as envy for example

Second, we tried to look for more occasions for members to be able to exchange and make proposals so we introduced an annual scientific meeting, suggesting brainstorming as its method.

Third, we decided to free ourselves of economical prejudices and use money to promote activities, beginning with the Budapest workshop which was already in preparation. This economical decision proved to be useful.

If Eatga’evolution has been always marked by the social context in which it has evolved, I think this interesting subject has not yet been enough studied . Eatga has an archived

documentation of meetings, such as to offer an interesting socio-historical study of our very particular institution, may be a good subject for a thesis!.

It is not always possible to understand the sense of institutional movement from inside, we are more actors in an unconscious scene than observers. Observation and comprehension of group dynamics come often "après coup" and needs time .

World globalization and the european social and financial crisis is the context in which EATGA is evolving today. The last Palermo workshop refers more explicitly to it than those before and shows how complex it is to think and understand a context in which we are included . Through the Palermo workshop, in relation to a new theoretical proposition (gift or market) , we have experienced together the difficulty to be able to introduce an eventual change in our most usual and obvious patterns of thought .

So we have to process, at the same time, many past group experiences and models of thought and to create new ones to confront new cultural challenges

Eatga is a space of free thinking worth to be preserved. Adelante!

With very friendly thanks to all of you

*Silvia*