

Alessandro Riva

G.F. d'Acquapendente *tabulae pictae* on the nervous system

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Dear Sir,

Last week I came across the article "The nervous system in colours: the *tabulae pictae* of G. F. d'Acquapendente (ca. 1533-1619) by Giorgio Zanchin and Raffaele De Caro [1]. I must say that, reading the text, I was really amazed noting that, whereas the authors do quote the article that Zanchin published on the *tabulae pictae* in the Catalogue of Fabricius's exhibition, edited in 2004 by M Rippa Bonati and J Pardo Tomas, they do not mention the one I published in the same catalogue [2]. Please, note that my article reports in synthesis the anatomical priorities present in all the *tabulae pictae*, including those on the De Anatomia capitis nervorum described by Zanchin and De Caro [3]. Moreover, the latter authors (page 365, 2nd column, line 13 from the top) state that: "paradoxically, neither descriptions of the morphological aspects nor analysis of the research contents of the *tabulae pictae* have ever been carried out." A statement that, in the light of my article, clearly results false and mendacious. Again, the article published in 2004 by Zanchin on the Catalogue houses some serious omissions and historical mistakes such as the assertion (page 240, second sentence from the top) relevant to cerebral convolutions: in

the *tabulae pictae* "in fact, any acknowledgement of a topographic organization of these structures is absent."

He does not notice, in fact, that in the last table (112-110) he describes, there is nothing less than the first correct representation of the lateral fissure, later described by Sylvius. A finding reported in my article. In the following paragraph of the same page he states that "the first accurate description of cerebral circumvolutions" is found in the Saggio published by Rolando in Sassari in 1809, whereas everybody who, like me, has read this famous booklet, can testify that there is no mention of cerebral convolutions that, instead, were described and drawn by Luigi Rolando in two articles published in Turin in 1829 and in 1830 (Clarke and Dewhurst, 1999).

Faithfully yours,

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