## CONTENTS

Foreword by Francesco Erspamer ix
Translators’ Foreword xv
Introduction to the Original 1977 Edition xix
Introduction to the 1985 Edition xxiii

### 1 THE DEFINITION AND PURPOSE OF THE THESIS

1.1 What Is a Thesis, and Why Is It Required? 1
1.2 For Whom Is This Book Written? 4
1.3 The Usefulness of a Thesis after Graduation 5
1.4 Four Obvious Rules for Choosing a Thesis Topic 7

### 2 CHOOSING THE TOPIC

2.1 Monograph or Survey? 9
2.2 Historical or Theoretical? 13
2.3 Ancient or Contemporary? 16
2.4 How Long Does It Take to Write a Thesis? 17
2.5 Is It Necessary to Know Foreign Languages? 22
2.6 “Scientific” or Political? 26
   2.6.1 What Does It Mean to Be Scientific? 26
   2.6.2 Writing about Direct Social Experience 32
   2.6.3 Treating a “Journalistic” Topic with Scientific Accuracy 35
2.7 How to Avoid Being Exploited by Your Advisor 42
3 CONDUCTING RESEARCH

3.1 The Availability of Primary and Secondary Sources 45
  3.1.1 What Are the Sources of a Scientific Work? 45
  3.1.2 Direct and Indirect Sources 50

3.2 Bibliographical Research 54
  3.2.1 How to Use the Library 54
  3.2.2 Managing Your Sources with the Bibliographical Index Card File 58
  3.2.3 Documentation Guidelines 62
  3.2.4 An Experiment in the Library of Alessandria 79
  3.2.5 Must You Read Books?
    If So, What Should You Read First? 103

4 THE WORK PLAN AND THE INDEX CARDS

4.1 The Table of Contents as a Working Hypothesis 107
4.2 Index Cards and Notes 115
  4.2.1 Various Types of Index Cards and Their Purpose 115
  4.2.2 Organizing the Primary Sources 123
  4.2.3 The Importance of Readings Index Cards 126
  4.2.4 Academic Humility 142

5 WRITING THE THESIS

5.1 The Audience 145
5.2 How to Write 147
5.3 Quotations 156
  5.3.1 When and How to Quote: 10 Rules 156
  5.3.2 Quotes, Paraphrases, and Plagiarism 164
5.4 Footnotes 167
  5.4.1 The Purpose of Footnotes 167
  5.4.2 The Notes and Bibliography System 170
  5.4.3 The Author-Date System 174
5.5 Instructions, Traps, and Conventions 179
5.6 Academic Pride 183
6 THE FINAL DRAFT

6.1 Formatting the Thesis
   6.1.1 Margins and Spaces
   6.1.2 Underlining and Capitalizing
   6.1.3 Sections
   6.1.4 Quotation Marks and Other Signs
   6.1.5 Transliterations and Diacritics
   6.1.6 Punctuation, Foreign Accents, and Abbreviations
   6.1.7 Some Miscellaneous Advice

6.2 The Final Bibliography
6.3 The Appendices
6.4 The Table of Contents

7 CONCLUSIONS

Notes