

## THE SINISGALLI CROSSROADS

Angelo Guerraggio (Universidade de Bocconi)

Leonardo Sinisgalli (1908-1981) has not been included among the most important writers in the history of Italian literature. Yet, for some decades, Sinisgalli was a key figure at the crossroads of literature, mathematics and industrial culture. After two years as a Math student (under Castelnuovo, Levi Civita, Severi, Fantappie'), Sinisgalli obtained a degree in Engineering in 1931 at the University of Rome. Soon his interest for literature and poetry became predominant, and he published his first collection of poems in 1927. The style of his poetry and his relationships with poets such as Ungaretti, Quasimodo, Gatto, Montale framed him under the school of the Hermetics. Sinisgalli ended up never exercising as Engineer. He found a job at Olivetti and, later, in some of the then most important Italian industries . He worked as Director of the corporate publications, using those magazines not for advertisement but rather as training grounds for some of the most significant intellectual figures of that time and to discuss with an unusual frequency (give the then cultural background of Italy) of Mathematics and Science as essential drivers for the modernization of the country.