



Sergio Olivotti  
*Lo ZoablatoRE. L'invenzione che cambiò la storia*

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**Lavieri**



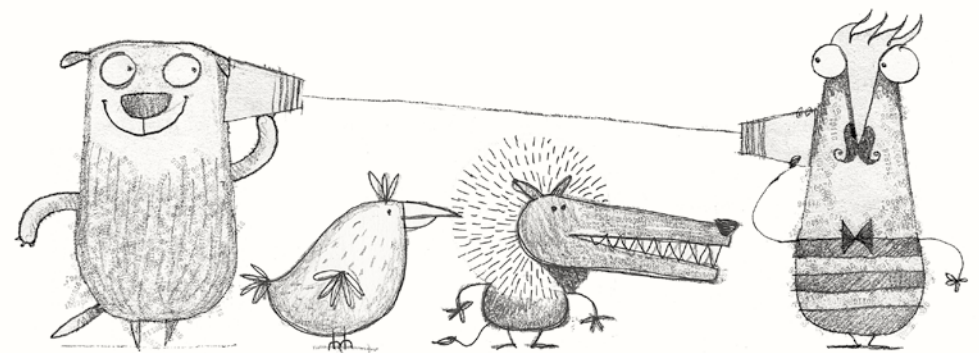
# PREFACE

## The origin of a myth

It was back in 1954 when, in the now legendary Elbresaus Conference, the famous Professor Beland announced the finding, after a century of oblivion, of the Moclob Code, a scientific-biographical treaty collecting a huge amount of drawings and scientific dissertations by Pico De Articiocus, inventor of the ZOOHABLATOR.

Until then, this awesome technological tool seemed to belong to mythology, such as Atlantis or the Lighthouse of Alexandria. But, thanks to the discovery of the Code, it was finally possible to (re)build it.

From that moment on, history simply changed!



AWW, MAXIMUM WONDER!  
GLORIOUS SHALL BE  
AND SOLACE WOULD BRING,  
WITH MAXIMUM LOVE  
TO LEARN TO SPEAKHABLAR  
WITH THE NOBLE BEASTS!  
OOH, HOW NICE IT WOULD BE  
TO HAVE A TOOL  
TO SPEAKHABLAR  
WITH FELINES,  
CANIDAE AND HORSES.

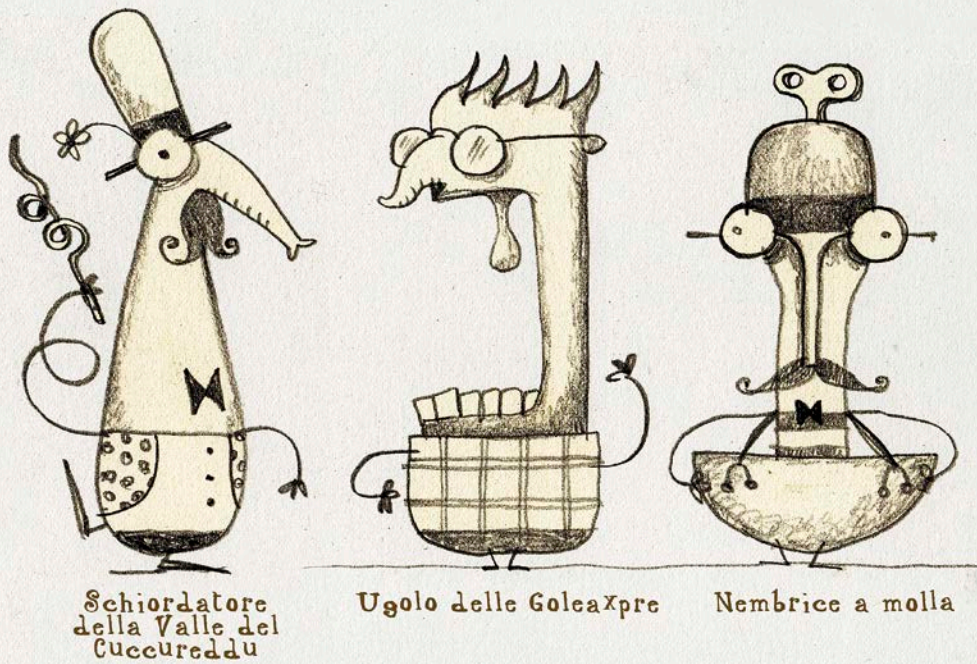
Above: a bust of Prof. Beland.  
The base inscription features the famous chant "Glorious shall be".

## Artychoke, inventor of the zoohablator

The Codex Moclob (1848) chronicles the life and works of Pico De Articiocus, also known as Artychoke, universally acclaimed as the genius inventor of the zoohablator.

Born in the valley of River Sbaragnapscialaus at the end of XVIII century, Artychoke grew up in the region of Egiongo, where he became a highly successful giraffe spot painter (one of his was even crowned Miss Giraffe 1812); later on, he started travelling the world and he came to meet fascinating populations, almost as mysterious as their languages: the Unriveters of the Bettega Valley, the Uvulars



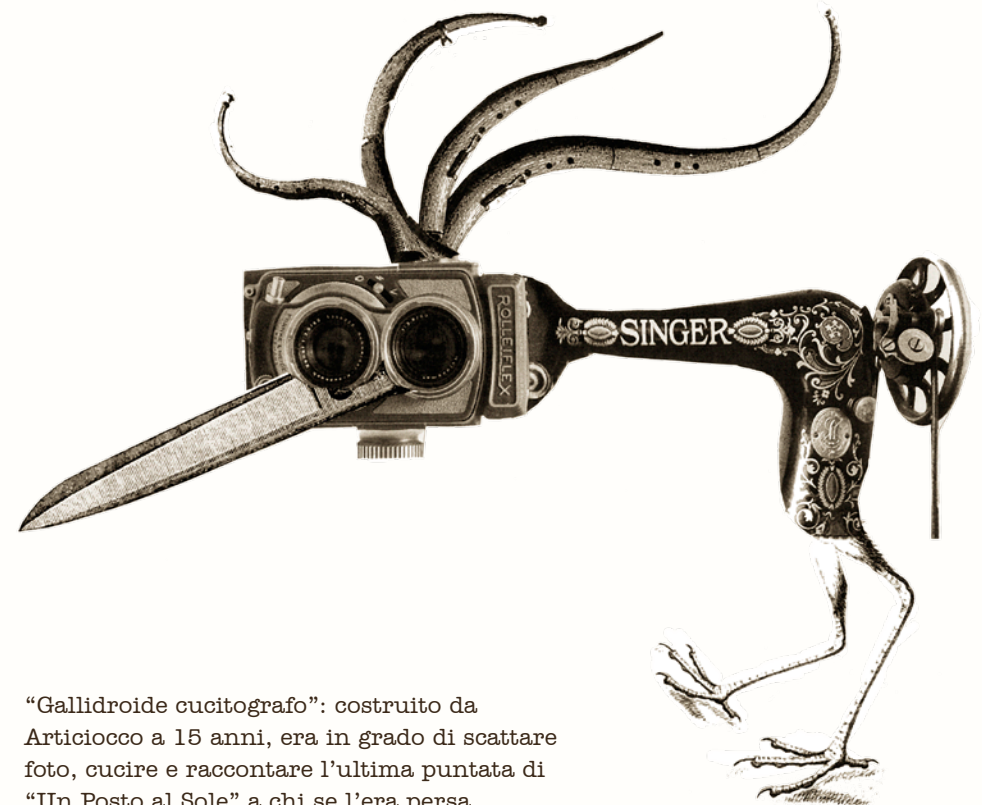


of the Drymouths, the Nem-spring-grippers from Mount Alphigh, and many more...

When he returned to Italy in 1815, Artychoke was only 26 years old, but he already possessed a vast knowledge: he knew how to play "Frere Jacques" with his armpit, how to stick his beans under a table without been seen, how to determine the flight trajectory of a drunken fly. More importantly, Artychoke had learnt countless languages (rumour has

it, he translated "White Christmas" into Nepalese while he was at the hairdresser's).

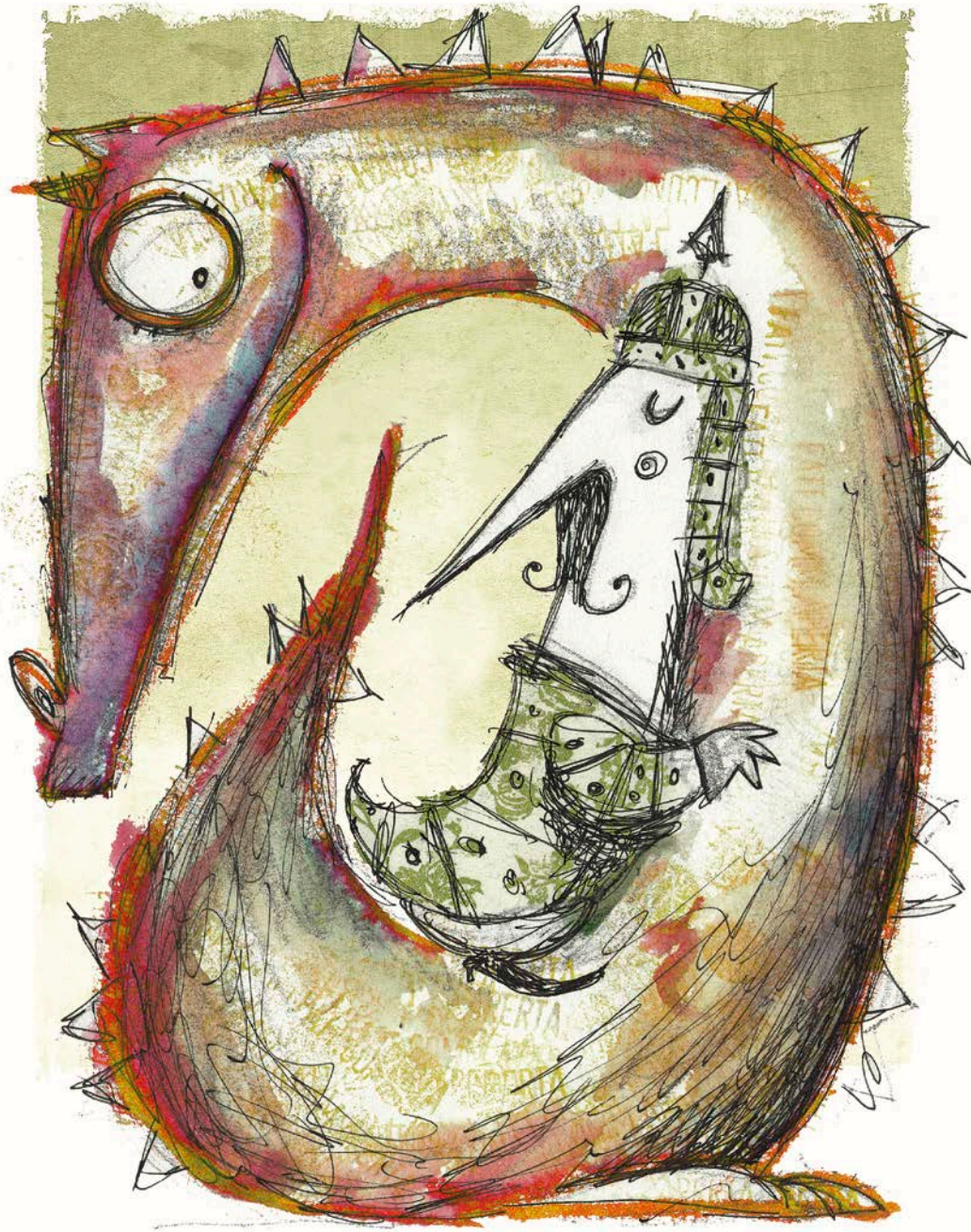
His knowledge enabled him to conceive some groundbreaking scientific experiments, that over time led to his most celebrated invention, the one that secured him a place in history: the zoohablator.



"Gallidroide cucitografo": costruito da Articiocco a 15 anni, era in grado di scattare foto, cucire e raccontare l'ultima puntata di "Un Posto al Sole" a chi se l'era persa.



## What a Zoohablator is



Above: reproduction of the famous painting, “St. George and the Sweet Baby Dragon” by Serginho De Oliveira (1380 ca.). Researchers from the Zoohablator University believe it proves the existence of rudimentary zoohablators even before Artychoke.

Before we continue, we’ll provide a brief explanation of what a zoohablator is, although many might find it unnecessary. According to the definition from the Eyewish–Eyeknew Vocabulary of Science and Technics:

**A zoohablator is a device capable of translating bi-directionally from a human language to an animal language and vice versa.**

In other words, a zoohablator is an instrument that enables us to communicate with animals; that is,



to talk with them. It may come in several sizes and shapes, and our advancements in technology make us smile at Artychoke's rigged-up prototypes, when compared to our modern models. Yet, without those early basic devices, that we only know about through the illustrations in the Codex, history would not be like we know it today.

Right:  
"Portrait of the King of Hens" (anonymous), pencil on paper, approximately around 1450 ca. depicting the mythological king of the Mayor Pollaius sub-femoral tribe.

Many believe that the King could communicate with his gallinaceous subjects through a rudimentary zoohablator. The siren Tunitto, half man half herring, has been since 1970 the emblem of the factory of the zoohablators Oliwotten.

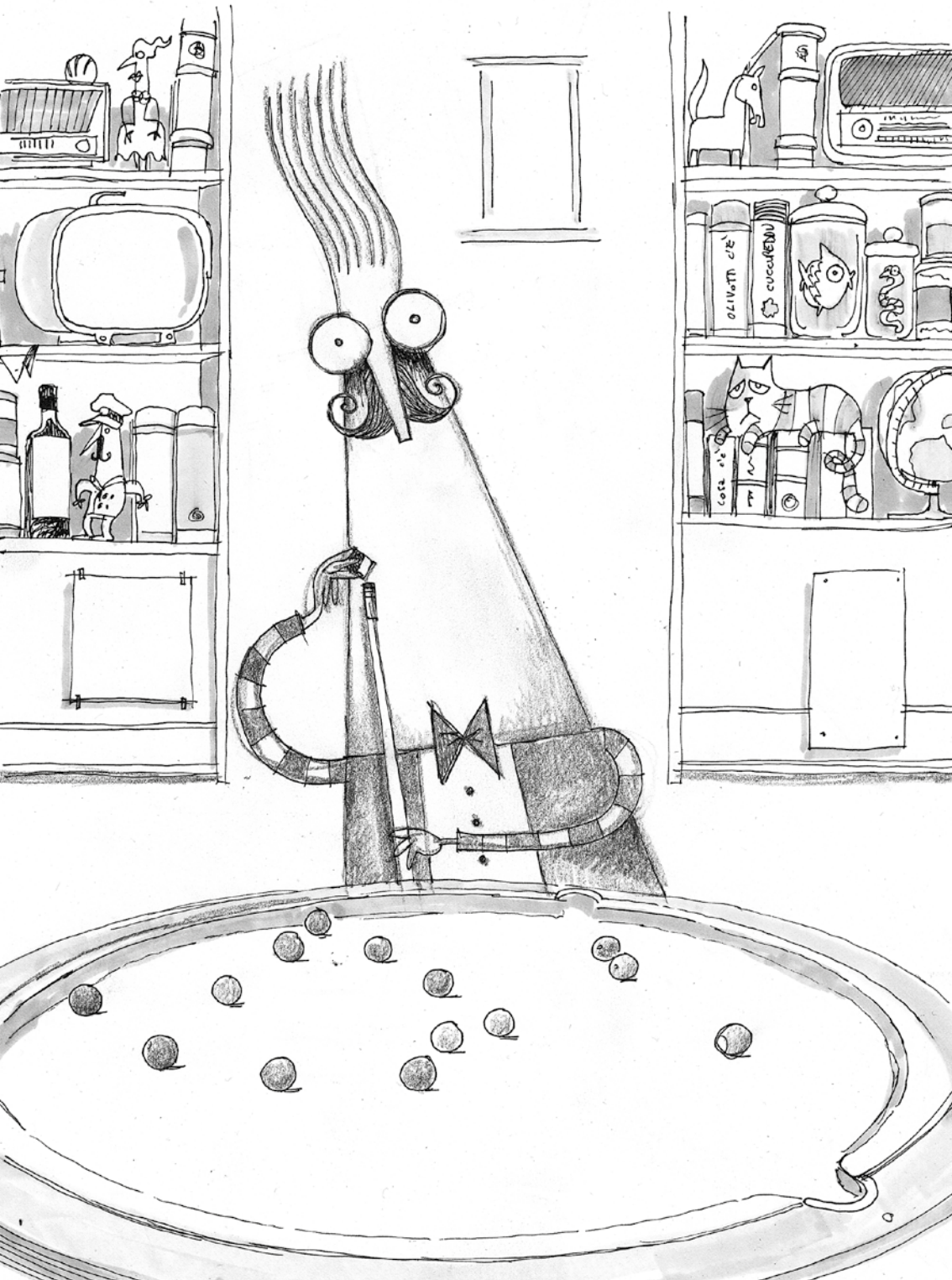


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## Artychoke's early inventions



Since his early youth, Artychoke loved to spend most of his time in his laboratory, to work on daring scientific experiments, that would often give catastrophic outcomes (on one instance, the roof was shot into orbit: it is now allegedly about to reach Mars). As young as 15, Artychoke designed a lightning-catcher-with-battery-charger hat (which was of little use, since mobile phones hadn't been invented yet). At the age of 16 he invented the roundpool, a sort of pool table that had a single circular rail, instead of straight side rails.





Some of Artychoke's drafts and studies: 1. Pre-rolled-up spaghetti; 2. Salami slicer; 3. Hairdryer-shower; 4. Drop-catcher for ice cream cones; 5. Duet guitar; 6. Tongue shield, to prevent licking cactus (why would anyone want to do that...); 7. Cup with biscuit-slide;



8. Flipper-shoe for elegant swimmers; 9. Quickcomb for the lazy; 10. Fork for piping-hot risotto; 11. Dog-dynamo: Produces energy from a dog's tail-wagging; 12. Elegant cactus-jersey for asocial types; 13. Cigarettes rain-hut; 14. Shoe-brooms; 15. Snake travel case.





But that's not all, since Artychoke was a prolific inventor all through his teen years: shoe-brooms, pipe umbrellas, vegetarian carnivorous plants, pre-rolled-up spaghetti, travel cases for snakes... the boy's creativity seemed boundless. Artychoke used to say all the time:



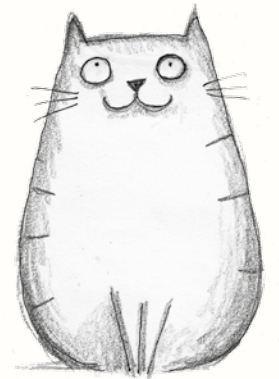
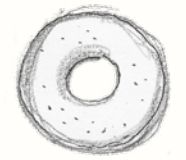
There's always something to invent: if there's nothing to invent, then it's time to invent something!



One day, while he was showing Grandma Ada his latest invention (a crank-operated doughnut-perforator), he noticed that the cat, Tony, kept pawing

his leg, as if saying: "Hey, why are you throwing away the doughnuts' holes? I would gladly eat them, you know..."

As if saying. Because of course, like all animals, he didn't actually talk; or, more precisely, he did talk - cattish, a language obviously unknown to humans. On the other hand, Tony too had trouble in understanding human language. In fact, Artychoke told him "No, Tony, you already ate a 4-lb fish today! You'll get the size of a barrel if you go on like this!"







Yet Tony understood something else entirely, and thought: "Ah, wonderful! If I understand right, my master must have just told me to wait, as he's going to give me all those doughnut holes... but he wants to spread some chocolate on them first... yes, that's what he must have said. Well, well.. then I'm going to just sit here and wait... I might meow a little to move him a bit or maybe I'll take a nap".

On that day, Artychoke understood that humans lacked a most important instrument, and he made the decision to invent it.

Humans lacked a zoohablator.



# The zoohablator between myth and history

Humans have always been fascinated by the idea of being able to talk with animals. That would have certainly helped Noah on the Ark: had he been able to call the roll, perhaps he wouldn't have left behind the Unicorn and the Sbeartulus. Therefore, if Artychoke is the indisputed inventor of the zoohablator, since ancient times there are hints of a mythological tool able to speak to animals. However, that's the realm of myth and legend, where nothing is certain, let alone scientifically proven.



SBERTOLO MARSUPIATO