

Translation by Teresa Celestino from *La Stampa*:

**VERCELLI. FROM THE [AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY]**

## **A plaque from the USA for the Liceo Avogadro**

One and a half century from his death, Amedeo Avogadro gives further prestige to the Scientific Liceo of Vercelli, the High School bearing his name.

The American Chemical Society, the most important scientific association in the world<sup>1</sup>, assigned to the town institute a plaque celebrating the 1811 famous paper with which the great chemist put an end to the confusion between atoms and molecules<sup>2</sup>.

This acknowledgment has been instituted by the History [of Chemistry Division of the American Chemical Society] to honour scientists' contributions to chemistry development.

Similar plaques have already displayed in other institutions, in which scientists like Avogadro formulated their contribution to modern science; but for the first time the plaque is assigned to an High School. In fact, Amedeo Avogadro conceived the famous [law] bearing his name while he was teaching *Positive Philosophy*<sup>3</sup> at the *École Normale*<sup>4</sup>, just in Vercelli.

For this reason, Jeffrey I. Seeman [as spokesman of the award committee], decided to confer to the Vercelli's school institution this important recognition.  
[R. MAG]

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<sup>1</sup> I specified, during the interview: "the most important because of his great number of members"

<sup>2</sup> Even though – I told – the Avogadro's Law was accepted definitively by the scientific community many years after its formulation.

<sup>3</sup> *Physics and Mathematics* teaching was named *Positive Philosophy* in the high schools and academic institutions.

<sup>4</sup> *École Normale Supérieure* indicates higher education establishments. I think that the school in which Avogadro taught was maybe the *École Normale Primaire* (or *d'Instituteur*), high school designed to train future teachers of the public education system (in French and in Italy under French domination, during the Napoleonic era). Anyway, I didn't find the expression "école normale" reading the book "Amedeo Avogadro, una politica per la scienza", the more detailed biography of the scientist, whose author is the Italian historian Marco Ciardi. The historian uses only the word "liceo".