Preface

On behalf of the Organizing Committee, I am pleased to present in these Proceedings volume the 95 papers that were accepted for publication, among the 125 submitted, following peer review.

We owe a great deal to the institutions and individuals who assisted us in making this Symposium possible. In particular, we would like to thank the University of Siena for providing the staff of the “Ufficio Congressi”, whose assistance was essential, and the Engineering and Humanities Faculties, who hosted the Symposium. I would also like to thank the members of the Organizing Committee, who gave me significant and much appreciated help.

This Conference could not have been carried out without the support provided by our sponsors (see next page). They included: Italian Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Regione Toscana, Fondazione Monte dei Paschi di Siena, Provincia and Comune di Siena, Fondazione Musei Senesi, Opera della Metropolitana di Siena, Associazione Italiana di Archeometria (AIAr), FEI, PANalytical, Thermo Scientific, Perkin Elmer, Bruker, Horiba Jobin-Yvon, Wiley-Blackwell, Springer, and Bancasciano.

The Symposium was held in Italy for the first time and the participants were more than 500, coming from all over the world. This huge participation demonstrates that archaeometric research is increasing, not only in quantity, but in quality as well.

The international team of convenors accepted 533 abstracts, which were compiled by approximately 1,400 authors. Eighty-one abstracts were selected for an oral presentation. The remaining 452 were posters, which was actually the highlight of the Symposium. The posters generated much discussion and allowed for more direct contact between authors and participants.

I would like to recognize the outstanding contributions of Elisabetta Gliozzo. She completed the painstaking work of editing the Abstract volume and coordinated the distribution and re-distribution of abstracts amongst the session convenors and authors.
In closing, let me remember and thank Riccardo Francovich, who passed away unexpectedly 2 years ago. Riccardo was a strong supporter of this conference, and he worked tirelessly and with enthusiasm to bring it about. If he were here today, he would certainly be pleased with what we have accomplished.

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