It’s a pleasure to announce the digital publication of the second special issue of Archeomatica International. In this number we host a variety of articles dedicated to many fields of the scientific research: the new findings from Antikythera Mechanism front plate astronomical dial and its reconstruction, the COBRA Project: a successful technology transfer and scientific divulgation method, the Nurnet Geoportal, Aerial Ostia - before and after E42 and Application of micro-Raman spectroscopy for conservation projects in art and archaeology with a case study on Cappadocia rock-hewn wall paintings.

Aristeidis Voulgaris, Andreas Vossinakis and Christophoros Mouratidis present their latest “findings” about the Antikythera Mechanism and the state-of-the-art of their investigations developed on this mechanism. In particular, the authors investigated the astronomical calendar-dial display of the Antikythera Mechanism Front Plate. The ancient prototype has been analysed through special photographs which provided new information on the functioning mechanism of the front dial. The authors conclude that the users of the device were able to easily perform astronomical calculations.

Beatrice Calosso and Roberta Fantoni describes the CO.B.RA Project: an Italian project developed for the dissemination of methods, technologies and advanced tools for the Cultural Heritage conservation, which has been implemented by the divisions of the Agenzia nazionale per le nuove tecnologie, l’energia e lo sviluppo economico sostenibile (ENEA). The main goal of the project is the dissemination and transfer to SMEs (operating in the cultural heritage sector) of the ENEA skills and Research Center Laboratories tools.

The Geoportal Nurnet is an open access webGIS dedicated to the Bronze Age Culture in Sardinia. The authors Valentina Spanu, Eva Barbara Lorrai, Laura Muscas e Roberto Demontis describes the potentiality of the geoportal to promote the Pre-Nuragic and Nuragic civilizations, which also provide a large variety of geo-information for the study of this civilizations. Developed and released in 2014 by the Center for Advanced Studies, Research and Development in Sardinia (CR54) and the Nurnet Fondation, the Geoportal represent one of the first initiative of this type on the Nuraghe’s field.

Massimiliano David, Gian Piero Milani and Roberto Cassanelli analyse the evolution of the archaeological area of Ostia from the aerial photography: fifteen photos coming from the archive of the Aerofototeca Nazionale, which cover a time range from 1911 to 1983, have been studied within the Ostia Marine Project, an archaeological mission of the University of Bologna active on the field since ten years.

The last article describes an overview of the applications of micro-Raman spectroscopy for cultural heritage, with a special eye on the case study of rock-hewn wall paintings in Cappadocia (Turkey), presented as exemplificative of application of Raman techniques for the knowledge of the materials, it’s conservation and for the identification of degradation processes.

Archeomatica is actually recorded in many databases, as the ISI Web of Science and the DOAJ directory of open access journal. Published quarterly in the Italian version with an International special issue published every year in English language, is actually the reference journal for the dissemination of technologies applied to cultural heritage to readers, not only scientist, but belonging to all the professional, institutional and academic field devoted to fruition, valorisation and conservation of cultural heritage.

Renzo Carlucci
dir@archeomatica.it