

INTRODUCTORY CONSIDERATIONS

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I thought it appropriate with this introduction to present the motives that led to devoting Special Issue No. 15-2 (2015) of the Journal “Conservation Science in Cultural Heritage”, to the papers presented by the scholars and their respective research, in the “*Second Conference on Biology and Archaeobiology – from Knowledge to Preventive Conservation*”, held from 19th-21st March 2015 and organized by the University of Palermo – Laboratory of Biology and Biotechnology for Cultural Heritage, Department of Botany and Plant Ecology section, the Italian Association of Archaeometry and Bionat – Italy srl.

The Conference may well be defined as an opportunity to present the state of the art on various aspects relating to diagnosis, restoration, maintenance, preservation and protection of cultural and environmental heritage. The highly diversified backgrounds, competences and experiences of the participants, which were highlighted during the thematic sessions in the Conference, also provided a valuable and significant scientific contribution to Biology and Biotechnology within the context of the many complex problems existing in this sector. They, therefore, presented methods of intervention and control for microbiological biodeterioration that respond to: reliability, innovation, sustainability and – I wish to underline the following – interdisciplinarity. All these concepts espouse the objectives that have been set and pursued over the years in the 15 volumes of the international historical-technical Journal “Conservation Science in Cultural Heritage”.

In addition to motives of a scientific nature, though briefly stated, I would also like to mention how much work and effort was put into the successful outcome of the Conference. I would therefore, like to express my praise for the hosting structure and those who worked in the design, planning and organization of the event by involving experts from universities, research centers and institutions of various regions: in particular, Prof. Franco Palla, with whom I have shared many years of ‘science’ and friendship.