

## FOREWORD

### Inside the pottery: composition, technology, sources, provenance and use

This particular special issue groups the contribute of part of the papers presented during the 12<sup>th</sup> European Meeting on Ancient Ceramics (EMAC2013) held in Padova in September 19-21, 2013, and organized under the patronage of the University of Padova, Sannio University and the Institute of Inorganic Chemistry and of the Surface (ICIS-CNR).

The presence of participants from geographic areas other than Europe, such as North and South America, the Middle East, Asia, Australia and North Africa, highlights the fact that this meeting represented an important moment in the discussion of methodological developments and characterization studies of ancient ceramics. It represented a very important forge in which to develop new ideas, set up new collaborations and organize networks, especially among our younger colleagues.

The subjects presented by the authors covered all the classical topics, from provenance and technology, to methodological developments, dating, experimental firing, and analysis of pottery over very wide time intervals and geographic distributions. Interdisciplinarity and the “multi-analytical approach” characterized most of the contributions, showing that researchers with different scientific backgrounds can come together to answer important questions on ancient pottery dating, provenance, technology and conservation.

The papers contained in this special issue represent the topics and some case studies, which, behind the archaeological questions, express the importance of the minero-petrographic, and occasionally more in general of a scientific approach, in the study of Cultural Heritage materials, such as ancient ceramics.

Lara Maritan  
Celestino Grifa  
Luca Nodari