

EDITORIAL FORWARD BY GUEST EDITORS

The papers included in this special issue of *Mediterranean Archaeology and Archaeometry* are a selection of double-blind peer-reviewed papers of the first International Workshop on Virtual Archaeology, Museums and Cultural Tourism – VAMCT'13, held in Delphi, Greece, September 25-28, 2013. The workshop was organized and directed by Delphi native Ioannis Liritzis, Professor of Archaeometry at the University of the Aegean, Rhodes, Greece, in valuable co-organization since its conception with Professor Maurizio Forte of Duke University (USA). The wide range of themes covered by the papers, shows that this ambitious workshop explored diverse innovations of digital technologies to a broad spectrum of challenges related to cultural heritage and tourism. Participants came from across Europe, Russia and the United States of America. One major contribution focused on a number of presentations concerning digital visualization for diverse purposes, such as integrated gaming platforms, methods to test theories related to sculptural arrangements, immersive tools for cultural tourism, and methods for collating, archiving and disseminating data. Others were concerned with how technology can enhance interaction for site-specific audiences.

While several of the papers at the workshop dealt directly with Delphi itself, the archaeological site of Delphi and the imposing cliffs of mount Parnassus provided an exhilarating backdrop to the ideas and innovations presented at the workshop. One of the innovative components of the workshop was its dual focus on research and cultural tourism. While other conferences worldwide include cultural tourism conceptually, they do not explicitly see those explorations as part of their missions. The conference was held at the European Cultural Center of Delphi on the west edge of the modern town of Delphi. It was an ideal location, well appointed and efficiently organized, with exceptionally smooth integration of various technologies. The transdisciplinary (team research) nature of papers presented in Delphi led to our expanding the number of guest editors of this volume to the six of us listed below.

The 2013 workshop wishes to thank the Ministry of Culture & Sports for its support.

The 2nd International Symposium on Virtual Archaeology, Museums and Cultural Tourism will again be held in Delphi, September 23-26, 2015; the website is up: <http://vamct.syros.aegean.gr/2015/>.

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