The XV International Numismatic Congress, held in Taormina from 21 to 25 September 2015, was promoted by the International Numismatic Council, represented by the nine Members of its Committee (Carmen Arnoldi Brucchi President, Donal Bateson and Benedikt Zäch Vice Presidents, Michael Alram Secretary, Tuukka Talvio Treasurer, Maria Caccamo Caltabiano, Sylviane Estiot, Pere Pau Ripollés, Bernward Ziegaus Officers). It was organized by the Teachers of Numismatics of the University of Messina (Maria Caccamo Caltabiano, Daniele Castrizio and Mariangela Puglisi) and of the University of Calabria (Benedetto Carroccio), in collaboration with the Town of Taormina.

The Proceedings have been cofinanced by the remaining funds deriving from the organization of the Congress. Their structure is similar to that of the program which took place during the Congress. The internal division of the sections has been removed to allow for an easier and more effective consultation of the contributions. The articulation follows the diachronic order of Numismatics and is preceded by a General section that brings together contributions that, for the matters which they address, have been considered as being of general interest (such as History of Numismatics, Numismatists and Collections, Coins in archaeological contexts and Scientific analyses). The contributions originally presented as posters have been inserted among those of the related sections.

We apologize to the authors for being constrained to limit the number of pages and associated illustrations of their contributions due to printing costs, and we thank those who generously and in large numbers have complied with this request. As you can note, only a small number failed to observe this requirement. We are aware that given the large number of articles, the diversity of languages and contents and the presence of images and graphics there maybe errors despite the efforts of authors and publishers to avoid them. We regret any inconvenience caused by this to our readers. The publication of the Proceedings would not have been possible without the work of many people over the two years it has taken to draft them. To these colleagues and to the younger scholars we express our extreme gratitude. For the editing of the Greek Antiquity articles we thank Benedetto Carroccio and Grazia Salamone for their participation in the review; for Roman Antiquity we thank Cristian Mondello; and for Other Antiquity Natalia Russo. For the revision of the Medieval Numismatic Sections we thank Daniele Castrizio, Andrea Filocamo and Rocco Aricò and Anna Sapienza for Modern Numismatics and Medals. The Programme processing and the Proceedings edition has been overseen in its entirety by Maria Caccamo Caltabiano.

Finally many thanks to Elisa Latini and Denise Sarrecchia, of the Publishing House Arbor Sapientiae in Rome, for their professionalism in the management of the layout and printing of the Congress Proceedings.
The Scientific Committee.

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Summary Report

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

We are happy to have welcomed you in Italy. It has been more than fifty years since the Rome Congress of 1961. These years have been very important for Italian Numismatics. In 1967 the first competition was held for Numismatics tenures at the University. The winners were Laura Breglia who was awarded the Numismatics post in Rome, Attilio Stazio in Naples and Sebastiana Consolo Langher in Messina. She was my mentor. During this period Prof. Salvatore Pugliatti was Rector of the Messina University, a jurist and man of great culture, passionate about art, music and numismatics. Part of his coin Collection is now preserved in the Coin Cabinet of Syracuse. The students of those three first professors of Numismatics, together with other important colleagues, gave rise to numerous other Italian numismatic chairs. In Sicily the cities of Messina, Catania and Palermo have Numismatics teachers. The location of the XV International Congress of Numismatics in the Sicilian context was logical considering the primary role of historical and cultural importance assumed by Sicily since the first arrival of the monetary phenomenon in the VI century B.C.: the artistic quality and the extraordinary variety of Sicilian mintage, but above all the “innovation” and the avant-garde position in a Mediterranean background of its economic-monetary policies which are well noted to the scholars and enthusiasts of Numismatics.

In Sicily the Greeks, the Carthaginians, the Romans, the Byzantines, the Arabs, the Normans, the Swabians, the Aragonese, the Spanish, the Hapsburgs, the Bourbons and the Savoys have all minted money. Coin Collections exist in Syracuse and in Palermo, but also in Messina, Catania, Enna, Caltanissetta, Gela, Agrigento, Trapani and Cefalù. In numerous Sicilian Antiquaria there are coin exhibitions deriving from local collections or archaeological finds. These collections reflect local coin circulation which developed over the course of over two thousand years, mirroring the policies of expansion and territory control but at the same time as a means of integration between the different peoples and cultures present in Sicily.

1. The Congress

The XV International Congress of Numismatics, Taormina 21-25 September 2015, concluded with a very positive evaluation. It was attended by 720 participants who came from 44 different nations (including Australia, India, Japan and China) and 422 reports and 53 posters were presented. The high quality of the abstracts was verified by the Scientific Committee before their acceptance through a peer review of eight people with specific competences.

The President and General Secretary of the scientific and organizing Committees were Professors Maria Caccamo Caltabiano and Mariangela Puglisi from the Messina University. Other members of the scientific Committee were Prof. Ermanno Arslan from the Accademia dei Lincei and former Director of Archaeological and Numismatic Collections in Lombardia, Prof. E. Daniele Castrizio from Messina University and Benedetto Carroccio from Calabria University, Prof. Lucia Travaini from Milan University, and Prof. Sebastiano Tusa Sea Superintendent -Sicily.

The organizers were honoured to have received, as his award of representation, the medal of the President of the Italian Republic, Sergio Mattarella, who himself was born in Sicily.

The main Congress location was the Palacongressi (Fig. 2). The Congress began on Sunday with the opening of the Help Desk for participants at 3.30 p.m. The registration of the individual representatives of the various Institutions who are members of the International Numismatic Council followed. Their general meeting was held and

Fig. 1 Bronze Coin of Taormina (III century B.C.).

Fig. 2 Taormina, the Palacongressi.
new members of the INC Committee were voted for the next six years: Michael Alram President, Maria Caccamo Caltabiano and Pere Pau Ripollès Vice-Presidents, François de Callataj Secretary, Bernhard Weisser Treasurer, Aleksander Bursche - Ute Wartenberger Kagan - Andrew Meadows - Cecilia von Heijne Officers (Fig. 3). In the evening a complimentary party was hosted by the Congress organizers on the terrace of the Grand Hotel Timeo in Taormina (Fig. 4).

2. Scientific Programme
The Opening Ceremony took place on Monday morning (Fig. 5). After the welcoming address by Prof. Carmen Arnold Biucchi, the former President of the International Numismatic Council, and by the authorities of University of Messina, the Pro-Rector Prof. Giovanni Cupaiuolo and the Director of the Department of Ancient and Modern Civilizations Prof. Mario Bolognari, a lectio inauguralis was given by Prof. Lucia Travaini.
Summary Report

(Fig. 6) on the theme “Mints as Volcanoes: Fire and Technology”. Following this the President of the organizing Committee opened the sessions introducing the Congress to the participants.

During the Congress nine meeting rooms, in close proximity were simultaneously active and each speaker had twenty minutes at their disposal. The Palacongressi hosted sessions in the field of General Numismatics and Greek, Roman and Other Areas of Antiquity communications. This venue was combined with a conference room situated opposite, on the ground floor of Palazzo Corvaja, seat of the first Sicilian Parliament (1411), which also hosted General Numismatics.

The three rooms of the Hotel NH Collection, named after three great Italian Film directors L. Visconti, R. Rossellini, and M. Monicelli, hosted all the discussions relating to the Medieval and Modern ages and those relative to Medals. All the posters were presented on the lower ground floor of the Palacongressi.

The Organizers decided not to spread the sessions over different venues and to link the same rooms to the same Section in order to make it easier for the participants to find their fields of interest without the necessity to check the Programme. From the beginning of the abstract submission the participants were asked to link their paper/poster to one of 67 topics we proposed, mostly according to a thematic criterion: only 57 topics were selected. In building the sessions we tried to respect the participants’ choices, also considering room availability and timing. To help the participants follow a specific subject we also elaborated the ‘Synopsis of presentations by topics and sessions’, published in the Congress Book ¹. In addition we decided not to accept more than one paper from the same author (as first author or unless the second contribution was a poster) for a matter of balance.

Among the themes debated Ancient Numismatics, both Greek, Roman and from Other countries, and the History of Numismatics were those which were of most interest, representing more than half of all the paper and poster proposals. In General Numismatics the theme most frequently addressed was that of coinage discovered in archaeological contexts.

Less than one third of the total of contributions connected to Antiquity were those of the Medieval Age and rather limited were those of the Modern Age, with the number of presentations less than those concerning the study of Medals. However, the contribution of the speakers developed over time from the pre-monetary periods to contemporary coinage, with attention paid to relevant economic and political aspects, and those of communication entrusted to monetary iconography.

Furthermore, four Round tables were dedicated to particular themes, amongst which the computerization of the numismatic museum collections for the broadest public and scientific use and the future prospects for young numismatists. Their specific topics were: 1. Divina Moneta: Coin finds in religious contexts. 2. The new LANDscape of Greek numismatics. Unifying a discipline through Linked Data. 3. Networking Roman coin data repositories. 4. Numismatics in the 21st century: jobs, careers, professions for the young generation of coin enthusiasts (Fig. 7). During the Round Tables we suspended any other paper pertaining to the same Section to enable colleagues

interested in the same subjects to participate.

In future, in order to involve specialists of more fields, even outside the Scientific Committee, it could be useful to stimulate the participation of scholars of lesser known fields, even if the predominance of certain Sections of Numismatics depends on the real number of the submissions. The INC Committee and the organizers of the next Warsaw Congress (2021) could also reflect on a panel system, but this would not be recommended as the sole approach.

On Tuesday 22nd the annual Meeting and a Round Table of ICOMON- International Committee for Money and Banking Museums and a special Meeting of the Oriental Numismatic Society took place at Palazzo dei Duchi di Santo Stefano (Fig. 8). The new book of the Medieval European Coinage Project, concerning Italy, was presented in the garden of this Palazzo, on Wednesday evening and drinks were offered to all attending. The event was sponsored by NIP (Numismatici Italiani Professionisti).

3. Social Events

On Monday at 7pm, at the end of the day discussions, a party was hosted by the Organizing Committee for participants and their guests on the fourth floor of the Palaccongressi and on the adjacent terrace (Fig. 9). At 8.30 p.m. the Greek Roman Theatre of Taormina hosted the Inauguration Ceremony during the course of which a welcome address to the participants (Fig. 10) was given by Dr. Maria Costanza Lentini, Director of the Archaeological Park of Naxos and Taormina, and by political authorities. Subsequently Carmen Arnold Biucchi received the “jeton de Vermey” by the President of the Société Francaise de Numismatique and the silver Medal of the XV International Numismatic Congress. The organizers had asked Prof. Silvana Balbi De Caro, President of the Italian Association of the Art of Medal, responsible for its creation, to present the medal and to comment on its meaning.

Grants given by the International Numismatic Council and the various Associations and foreign and Italian Academies were then awarded to the young winners (Figs. 11a-b). We had decided to highlight on the
At the end of the presentations the thirty musicians of "Plectrum Orchestra of the City of Taormina" provided entertainment for this unforgettable evening (Figs. 12; 13-14).

On Tuesday the District of Taormina and the American Numismatic Society of New York, thanks to its Executive Director Dr. Ute Wartenberg Kagan (Fig. 15), and with the generous support of Numismatica Ars Classica AG, Zurich – London, Classical Numismatic Group, Inc. Lancaster - London, and Harlan J. Berk Ltd., Chicago, hosted an evening reception at the Villa Comunale (Fig. 16), with the participation of "Piccola Orchestra Spontanea Calabro-Sicana", young players of traditional music. The reception was held in honour of Basil C. Demetriadi and in memory of the late Richard B. Witschonke
Fig. 15 Taormina, Villa Comunale. *Photo: Ursula Kampmann.*

Fig. 16 Dr. Ute Wartenberg Kagan, Executive Director of the American Numismatic Society. *Photo: Cristian Mondello.*

Fig. 17 A group of Congress participants visit the Archaeological Museum of Naxos.

Fig. 18 The Secretary of the INC Prof. F. De Callatay, the President of INC Dr. M. Alram, the President of XVI International Numismatic Congress Prof. A. Bursche. *Photo: Cristian Mondello.*

Fig. 19 Social Dinner at San Domenico Hotel. *Photo: Cristian Mondello.*

Fig. 20 Excursion to Mount Etna.

Fig. 21 Etna Winery.
On Wednesday afternoon many Congress participants took part in the half day tours at Naxos (Fig. 17) or Catania, whilst others attended the presentation of the “Memmo Cagiati” and “Mario Traina” awards, given to young numismatists by the President (Dr. Giuseppe Ruotolo) of Accademia Italiana di Studi Numismatici. For the half day excursions, we followed the schedule of the Glasgow Congress. This was to allow people with limited time, who could not stay on Friday, to enjoy the surrounding area of Taormina.

At 6.30pm on Thursday afternoon the scientific work of the Congress was completed with speeches and greetings by the President and the Secretary of the organizing XV INC Committee and those of the new President of the next International Numismatic Congress in Warsaw, Prof. Alexander Bursche, the former President of the International Numismatic Council and the new President Dr. Michael Alram (Fig. 18). In the evening there was the social dinner at San Domenico Hotel (Figgs. 19a-b).

On Friday three tours took place with a choice of visits, to the Archaeological P. Orsi Museum of Syracuse - with its Coin Cabinet exhibition, to the Barocco Center of Noto buildings, or to the Roman Villa of Piazza Armerina together with the rest of ancient Morgantina and the Aidone Museum, or to Mount Etna and its typical food and local winery (Figgs. 20, 21).

This has been the conclusive moment of the XV International Congress which gave everyone an opportunity to relax, to get to know some of Sicily’s cities, to greet colleagues and to plan new research together.

4. The Survey, the Congress Book and the Congress Medal

The Survey of Numismatic Research 2008-2013 was published in conjunction with the XV INC. Carmen Arnold Biucchi and Maria Caccamo Caltabiano were the General Editors, with the cooperation of a group of Sub-editors from different nationalities (Roger Bland, Hubert Emmerig, Stefan Heidemann, Miguel Ibáñez Artica, Hortensia von Roten, Marguerite Spoerri, Tuukka Talvio, François Thierry, Julio Torres, Lucia Travaini, David Wigg-Wolf, Bernward Ziegaus) and more than one hundred Authors (108), who have collaborated in collecting and scheduling publications over six years from around the world. The International Association of Professional Numismatists has generously sponsored the Survey.

In future some British Museum colleagues have suggested the publication of “a Survey of Numismatic Literature” produced as an online publication. Moreover a printed version of the Survey remains necessary as a visible witness to the progress of Numismatics.

A Congress Book was edited by Mariangela Puglisi and Grazia Salamone, Maria Caccamo Caltabiano was its General Editor. It contained General Information regarding the Congress Venue and the Conference Rooms, the Help Desk and Book Fair, Timetables of the Congress and, also, details regarding Social Events, Special Meetings and organized excursions. The main part of the Book consisted of the Scientific Programme and the texts of the Abstracts sent by the authors of papers or posters. In addition a “Synopsis of presentations”, grouped by sections, topics (as selected by the Authors) and sessions, gave an idea of all thematic sessions and arguments presented to the Congress. This Book was sponsored by the Dipartimento di Scienze Umanistiche of the University of Calabria, represented by Prof. Benedetto Carroccio member of the Scientific and Organizing Committees of the XV INC.

The Managing Board of Associazione Italiana dell’Arte della Medaglia was responsible for the creation of the commemorative medal for the XV International Numismatic Congress (Fig. 22). The medal, designed by the young artist Gionatan Salzano from the School of Medal Art, was inspired by the femal head of the Kimon decadrachm of Syracuse, minted in the last decades of Vth century BC. The medal, that reproduces in small dimensions also three coins minted respectively from Zancle, by Frederick II and by the government of the Spanish monarchy in Sicily, represents the continuity of engraving art in Sicily from the signing masters of the classical age to the productions of the medieval and modern times.

5. Acknowledgements

I am grateful to all members of the former Committee for their vigilant attention and kind advice: Carmen Arnold Biucchi (President), J. Donal Bateson and Benedikt Zäch (Vice-Presidents), Michael Alram (Secretary), Tuukka Talvio (Treasurer), Sylviane Estiot, Pere Pau Ripollès and Bernward Ziegaus (Officers). We thank all participants to the Congress. First of all who had bet on our groups capabilities from the beginning,
all the Round Table Organizers for the interesting Topics chosen, all the Chairpersons who have perfectly contributed to the successful execution of the sessions, all the Papers and Poster Presenters for the very high quality of their contributions.

The Congress would not have been possible without the generous economic support of all the participants but above all that of the International Numismatic Council, that of the University of Messina represented by its Rector Prof. P. Navarra and with the guidance of the Director of the Department of Ancient and Modern Civilisation, Prof. Mario Bolognari, who was the first to help us in researching the most suitable places in which to organise the Congress. The Mayor of Taormina, Dr. Eligio Giardina has made both the Palacongressi and Palazzo Corvaja available to the Congress and Dr. Maria Costanza Lentinì, Director of the Archaeological Park of Naxos and Taormina, has allowed the Congress inauguration in the prestigious Greek-Roman Theatre.

The successful organization and coordination of the Congress would certainly not have been possible if it had not been for the generous commitment of colleagues and young collaborators. I would like to thank first of all the General Secretary of the Congress Prof.ssa M. Puglisi; Dr. Grazia Salamone PhD of the University of Messina, coeditor of the Congress Book and coordinator of the PhD students team, the administrative secretary Dr. Antonio Davì, and furthermore Prof. B. Carroccio of the University of Calabria and the PhD Angela D’Arrigo collaborator in social communication. Thanks to the team of doctoral candidates in Archaeological and Historical Sciences of the University of Messina Maria Chilè, Federica Dell’Oro D’Amico, Cristian Mondello, Anna Sapienza, Barbara Sisalli, Marianna Spinelli, and also to Natalia Russo and Emanuele Pizzilli (Fig. 23), and to the 24 students team of the Department of Ancient and Modern Civilisations of the University of Messina (Fig. 24).

Warmest thanks to the computer experts, Dr. Nicola Spada and Engineer Antonino Longo of the CIAM (Informatics Center of Athenaeum of Messina), to the web Designer Gaetano Partinico and the web Maker Andrea Andidero and to the professionals of the Print Centre of the University of Messina.

Thanks to Dr. Luigi Lupo for his organizational and economic advice. Thanks also to the Organizing Secretariat of the Lisciotto Agency and in particular to the Director Emilio Lisciotto and Dr. Nancy Pandolfino. Finally I would like to give my sincere thanks to my husband, Prof. Carlo Caccamo, without whose advice, moral support and active cooperation I would not have been able to reach the final goal of the Congress and all its activities.

A high level of interest in the Congress was also observed from the media on an international level. The Congress website http://www.xvcin.unime.it (Fig. 26) had many thousands of visitors and the Congress had many followers on its Facebook page and on Twitter. A report, among others, was published by Ursula Kampmann Editor of “Coins weekly” website (Fig. 25, on October 1, 2015: “15th International Numismatic Congress in Taormina”, and by J. Lauper, Fl. Hurlimann, F. Puthod, in the Schweitzer Münzblätter, Heft 260/2015, pp. 127-130 and G. Girola, RIN, 117, 2016, pp. 13-17.
The premise to allow such a leap is, in our view, our support to collaborative networks about topics and territories, networks that already exist, their expansion and the creation of new working groups. This would serve to raise, even outside our own field, the image of a strong and compact Numismatics, as a privileged interdisciplinary scientific field. Let us remember that among all disciplines, Numismatics is really diachronic and transverse, and thanks to these features it can continue and improve its path through the efforts and commitment of each of us.

At last but not least I would like to link my report to the image chosen as the logo of the XV International Numismatic Congress, the triskeles (Fig. 26), the symbol consisting of three bent human legs, inspired by the coinage minted by Agathocles in Syracuse at the end of the fourth century BC, and designed by my daughter, the artist Cecilia Caccamo. The image recalls the “Trinacria”, the logo of the Sicilian Region, but we chose it because it is a “winged” triskeles, an image of fast and effective renewal. We think in fact that Numismatics should take its wings if we want to obtain results that ensure the future of our young colleagues.
È veramente un enorme piacere portare il saluto mio e del Consiglio Superiore ‘Beni culturali e paesaggistici’ del Ministero dei Beni e delle attività culturali e del turismo (MiBACT) al XV Congresso Internazionale di Numismatica. Mi dispiace molto non poter essere fisicamente presente, a causa di vari impegni istituzionali. Mi scuso con gli organizzatori, in particolare la cara amica e collega Maria Caltabiano, e con tutti i partecipanti al Congresso.

Mi sia consentito riservare un pensiero commosso al collega archeologo Khaled al Assad, trucidato dai guerriglieri dell’ISIS impegnati nella distruzione sistematica del patrimonio culturale in Siria e in tutti i territori da loro occupati.

La strategia dell’ISIS è straordinariamente lucida e dimostra una consapevolezza del significato e del valore del patrimonio archeologico, certamente maggiore di quella che attualmente dimostrano l’Europa e l’intero Occidente. Stanno eliminando la memoria, attraverso la distruzione della materialità della storia, per produrre una sorta di tabula rasa sulla quale costruire la propria egemonia religiosa e culturale. La storia ha già conosciuto fenomeni analoghi, con distruzione di templi e di statue, stermini e deportazioni. Abbiamo anche noi conosciuto i roghi dei libri e il tentativo di annientamento di tutte le tracce del passato ritenute scomode oltre a forme di manipolazione e strumentalizzazione dei documenti storici e archeologici.

Ma l’Europa e anche l’Italia continuano a rischiare di ammalarsi di una forma di Alzheimer collettivo, una malattia sociale che porta alla perdita di memoria, di identità e di dignità e alla difficoltà nel linguaggio. Tocca anche a noi studiosi del passato contrastare questa malattia sociale.

Dovremmo non solo impegnarci sempre di più nella conoscenza, tutela e valorizzazione del patrimonio cul-

It is a very great pleasure for me to greet everyone at the XV International Numismatic Congress, also on behalf of the Italian Council ‘Cultural Heritage and Landscapes’ of the Italian Ministry of Culture (MiBACT). I very much regret that my official engagements prevent me from being there in person, and I apologise to the organisers, especially to my dear friend and colleague Maria Caltabiano and to all participants at the Congress.

Please allow me to remember with sadness my fellow archaeologist Khaled al Assad, brutally murdered by ISIS, whose guerilla fighters are engaged in the systematic destruction of cultural heritage in Syria and all the areas they have occupied. Their strategy is extraordinarily lucid, and demonstrates a much greater awareness of the meaning and value of archaeological heritage than is at present shown by Europe and the West as a whole. ISIS is eliminating historical memory by destroying the material remains of the past, in order to create a kind of blank slate on which to construct its own religious and cultural hegemony. History has already seen similar events, with the destruction of temples and statues, massacres and deportations. We ourselves have also experienced the burning of books and attempts to obliterate all traces of a past seen as disturbing, as well as the manipulation and exploitation of historical and archaeological documents. Nonetheless, Europe and Italy are still in danger of contracting a form of collective Alzheimer’s, a disease affecting society as a whole, leading to loss of memory, identity and dignity, and to difficulties in communication. As academics engaged in studying the past, it is our task to combat this disease. Not only must we be even more committed to the knowledge, protection and enhancement of the cultural heritage and landscape, but we must also be committed to restoring renewed meaning and value to this heritage. At a first glance, coins may appear to have only their monetary value, but in
tutela e paesaggistico, ma anche nel ridare a quel patrimonio un senso e un valore rinnovati. Anche la moneta, che pure a prima vista potrebbe apparire legata al solo valore venale, è portatrice di valori di relazioni, di scambi, di culture. Tocca a noi farlo sorgire. Viviamo una stagione complessa e difficile, ma anche straordinariamente interessante. Una di quelle fasi di rapida e radicale transizione, forse ancor più sconvolgenti di quelle che la storia dell’umanità ha già conosciuto. In questo contesto, quale ruolo possono svolgere il patrimonio archeologico e, in generale, i beni culturali e il paesaggio? Poniamoci una domanda ancora più ambiziosa: come possiamo contribuire alla costruzione di un nuovo modello di sviluppo e, quindi, di un nuovo progetto di società? E chiediamoci anche se noi specialisti siamo consapevoli del ruolo che potremmo svolgere. Oppure siamo smarriti, impauriti, e rischiamo di rinchiuderci nella difesa di una tradizione elitaria? Il mondo dei beni culturali in Italia sta vivendo un momento di profondi cambiamenti e dopo anni di stasi, di continui tagli ai finanziamenti, di disinteresse, si è rimesso in movimento, pur tra mille difficoltà. Oggi servono nuovi modelli organizzativi capaci di affrontare le sfide del terzo millennio, perché è il concetto stesso di patrimonio culturale ad aver conosciuto una profonda rivoluzione. Per affrontare le nuove sfide non bastano le tecniche e le tecnologie, per quanto innovative, ma servono strumenti culturali. L’aspetto più rilevante del nostro impegno dovrebbe essere costituito dalla promozione di una partecipazione attiva dei cittadini. Nessun reale cambiamento sarà, però, possibile, senza un’adeguata riflessione culturale e senza il confronto libero. Sono necessari una forte carica innovativa, il coraggio del cambiamento, la costruzione collettiva di un progetto che guardi al futuro e ai giovani. Dobbiamo perciò evitare la tendenza alla frammentazione in piccoli gruppi autoreferenziali, la chiusura difensiva in sempre più ristrette enclave e saper parlare a tutti. Senza perdere le specificità tematiche e disciplinari, dovremmo favorire aggregazioni più ampie e più incisive nella società contemporanea. Le tradizioni, anche le più gloriose, senza una forte innovazione, si sclerotizzano e avvizziscono. In questo progetto serve l’apporto di tutti. Anche dei numismatici. E sono certi che non mancherà. Auguro a tutti buon lavoro e un bel soggiorno nella bella e colta terra di Sicilia.
Impedita, causa la mia età avanzata, a partecipare a questo importante convegno che a distanza di 54 anni si svolge ancora una volta in terra italiana, desidero inviare un cordiale saluto a tutti i colleghi convegnisti. A Maria Caccamo Caltabiano, instancabile protagonista che fortemente ha voluto la Sicilia come sede di questo 15° convegno, alla equipe che l’ha affiancata in questo difficile compito con abnegazione ed impegno, vanno la mia ammirazione, le mie più vive congratulazioni e l’augurio di un lieto svolgimento dei lavori, nel ricordo di Laura Breglia, iniziatrice di una nuova stagione nel campo degli studi numismatici.

Saluto della Prof.ssa Aldina Cutroni Tusa
Greetings of Aldina Cutroni Tusa (1923-2016) Prof. of Numismatics at the University of Palermo, 18 settembre 2015