



## **The Importance of Cultural Heritage in Earth Science**

Gala Avvisati (1), Mauro Di Vito (1), Enrica Marotta (1), Agata Sangianantoni (1), Rosario Peluso (1), Sandro de Vita (1), Rosella Nave (1), Enrico Vertechi (1), Giuseppe De Natale (1), and Massimo Ghilardi (2)

(1) Istituto Nazionale di Geofisica e Vulcanologia - Osservatorio Vesuviano, Napoli, Italy, (2) Istituto Nazionale di Geofisica e Vulcanologia, Roma, Italy

In recent years the Earth Sciences community is facing the need to achieve a more effective and efficient dissemination of its scientific culture. There is now a growing need to integrate the use of “traditional” dissemination media of cultural heritage with the new digital technologies. Getting people involved in geoheritage site’s activities represents a crucial issue in order to better communicate and increase the collective awareness of natural hazards, risk, and environmental change.

The Reale Osservatorio Vesuviano (ROV) which is part of the Istituto Nazionale di Geofisica e Vulcanologia (INGV), owns collections unique in their combination of scientific, historical and artistic importance. The long history of ROV is extensively documented in its collections. This heritage – of great scientific and cultural value and unique for its abundance and variety – tells the story of the first observatory in the world, closely linked to the activity of Vesuvius, and the commitment of many scientists who dedicated their lives to study the volcano. The collections include: a) old books on volcanological matters, b) collection of rocks, minerals, volcanic ash and other materials from historical eruptions of Vesuvius, c) recordings on smoked paper of Vesuvius seismic activity from 1915 until 1970, d) scientific instruments, e) geological and geomorphological maps and models, f) vintage photographs and filmed sequences of eruptions, g) gouaches of Vesuvius and h) lava medals. The exposition of these collections, improved with the new digital contents, may trace new and unexplored routes for the dissemination of Earth Sciences related culture.

The ethical duty of the ROV is the creation of an universal identity by taking a picture of the evolution of the society through the training of the culture of seismic and volcanic risk. A disappearance of its heritage could represent an huge impoverishment of its community: the ROV carries in fact the cultural identity of the inhabitants in its surroundings but also of all the people in the world as the global digital connections have broken down geographical and cultural barriers. The challenge to protect and preserve this cultural heritage is played on many fields: sociology, digital contents, heritage management and legal.