

## Preface

In September 1986, the first European Intensive Postgraduate Course « Field conservation and scientific methods applied to archaeology » was held in Palinuro and at the European University Centre for Cultural Heritage in Ravello. The aim of the course was to create a better understanding of interdisciplinary research methods and to stimulate the participants to use them in their future studies. It was the first project of the PACT palaeoecological network. During the course a two-days symposium on Palaeoecological methods applied to palaeoenvironmental reconstruction was organized in Ravello. The papers included in the present volume are partly based on the lectures given during the course and partly on the presentations at the symposium.

The volume PALINURO 1 covers geological, palaeoecological and archaeological aspects, an introduction of scientific methods and presentations of interdisciplinary research projects. It gives a valuable background to the following volumes of the PALINURO investigations. PALINURO 2 will contain the preliminary results of the pilot excavation and the scientific studies carried out in the area. Publication is planned 1990/91. PALINURO 3 will continue with the up-to-date results from the interdisciplinary excavation to be carried out in 1990.

We are deeply indebted to the Soprintendenza ai Beni Archeologici di Salerno, its present director Dottoressa Giuliana Tocco and to its former director, Prof. Werner Johannowsky, for their active support and collaboration in the field and to the whole project; the assistant archaeologists, Drs. Matilde Romito and Rosanna Maffetone devoted much of their time to the archaeological field supervision and have been in contact with the whole PACT group ever since with mutual exchange of results and opportunities. The contribution of the Salerno staff will appear in the second volume concerning the results of our work.

Our gratitude goes to the Council of Europe and its Division for higher Education and Research, to the responsible chief Dr. Jean-Pierre Massué and his efficient staff, for support and help in many ways.

The centre in Ravello has given us most of the means to realize this project and the preparatory travels and sessions which it implied. Dr. Andria, former secretary general, and Dr. Eugenia Apicella, his assistant, looked after all the practical arrangements. Preparations were first assumed by Dr. Colyn, then in charge of the programs, and afterwards by his successors Miss Pascale Kopecz and Dr. François Widemann, then director of programmes who had just assumed his post at that time.

There is another essential volume which will appear separately concerning Field Conservation Methods which were taught and applied at Palinuro by our Danish colleague Prof. Helge Brinch-Madsen, head of the Konservatorskolen at the Royal Danish Academy of Arts in Copenhagen. We would like to express to him and to his staff our collegial admiration and sincere thanks for his contribution to this European field experience. This part is to be published in another volume of PACT.

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