

## Editorial

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# The Black Gold That Came from the Sea. Advances in the Studies of Obsidian Sources and Artifacts of the Central Mediterranean Area

<https://doi.org/10.1515/opar-2020-0125>

received December 24, 2020; accepted December 24, 2020.

**Keywords:** Mediterranean, archaeometry, obsidian, pXRF

## Foreword

This Special Issue of Open Archaeology is a two-volume collection of most of the contributions presented at the International Workshop on the same subject which took place in Palermo, Italy, on 10–12 June 2019.

The topics of the Special Issue are:

- archaeometric studies of obsidian sources, and artifacts of significant archaeological importance;
- genesis and description of the Central Mediterranean obsidian outcrops exploited during the Prehistory;
- new methods of obsidian sources discrimination;
- obsidians as an edutainment tool;
- not just obsidians: some works are dedicated to studies of characterization of ancient artificial glasses.

Hereafter are the list of the scientific contributions to the first issue:

Barca, D., & Papparella, F. C. *Chemical Characterization of Vitreous Finds from Cosenza Cathedral (Calabria – Italy) by the Combined Use of Analytical Techniques.*

Acquafredda, P., Larocca, F., Minelli, A., Pallara, M., & Micheletti, F. *Petroarchaeometric Analysis on Obsidian Artefacts Found Within Some Neolithic – Eneolithic Period Caves of Southern Italy.*

Foresta Martin, F., Barca, D., & Posedi, I. *Evidencing Human Occupation of a Small Island Through Ancient Glass: The Case of Ustica (Palermo, Italy).*

Foresta Martin, F., Larocca, F., Micheletti, F., Pallara, M., & Acquafredda, P. *Archaeometric Characterization of Obsidian Artifacts at Casa dei Francesi (Ustica Island, Italy) and Clues of a Hidden Prehistoric Settlement.*

Tykot, R. H., & Foresta Martin, F. *Analysis by pXRF of Prehistoric Obsidian Artifacts From Several Sites on Ustica (Italy): Long-Distance Open-Water Distribution From Multiple Island Sources During the Neolithic and Bronze Ages.*

Cantone, V., Deiana, R., Silvestri, A., & Angelini, I. *Obsidian and Obsidian-like Glass Tesserae: A Multidisciplinary Approach to Study the Dedication Wall Mosaic in the Church of St. Mary of the Admiral in Palermo (12th Century).*

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This article is a part of Special Issue ‘The Black Gold That Came from the Sea. Advances in the Studies of Obsidian Sources and Artifacts of the Central Mediterranean Area’, edited by Franco Italiano, Franco Foresta Martin & Maria Clara Martinelli.

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Martinelli, M. C., Coltelli, M., Manni, M., Bonizzoni, L., Guglielmetti, A., Oddone, M., Balestrieri, M. L. *Prehistorical Obsidian Sources in the Island of Lipari (Aeolian Islands)*.

Rotolo S. G., Carapezza, M. L., Correale, A., Foresta Martin, F., Hahn, G., Hodgetts, A. G. E., La Monica, A., Nazzari, M., Romano, P., Sagnotti, L., Siravo, G., & Speranza, F. *Obsidians of Pantelleria (Strait of Sicily): A Petrographic, Geochemical and Magnetic Study of Known and New Geological Sources*.

Foresta Martin, F., Rotolo S. G., Nazzari, M., & Carapezza, M. L. *Chlorine as a Discriminant Element to Establish the Provenance of Central Mediterranean Obsidians*.

The Coordinating Editors and Authors are grateful to Istituto Nazionale di Geofisica e Vulcanologia (INGV) who sponsored the Palermo workshop on 10–12 June 2019 and this Special Issue of Open Archaeology.

Heartfelt thanks also to the Chief and Managing Editor who have carefully followed every phase of the preparation of this Special Issue, and to all the reviewers who, with their suggestions, have improved the quality of the articles published.

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