A REMEMBRANCE OF SARA SANTORO

Sara Santoro passed away on 22 September 2016. She was professor of Classical Archaeology, an outstanding scholar, member of the Société des Antiquaires de France, founder member of the Associazione Antropologia e Mondo Antico and the Associazione Italiana per lo Studio e la Conservazione del Mosaico. She was on the staff of the Dipartimento di Scienze Psicologiche, della Salute e del Territorio dell' Università degli Studi Gabriele d'Annunzio in Chieti–Pescara in Italy.

Born in Seregno (Milan) in 1950, Sara read archaeology with the famed Prof. Guido Achille Mansuelli in Bologna and completed her degree in 1973. Two years later she began as a researcher at the Dipartimento di Archeologia Università di Bologna. In 1997–2009, she was hired as a full professor of archaeology and Greek and Roman art history at the University of Parma. She was also associated with the Scuola di Specializzazione in Archeologia at the University of Bologna in 1998-1999. She was appointed a professor of the Gabriele d' Annunzio University in Chieti-Pescara in 2009. Lecturing and doing research, she also held important university posts, surrounded by her students and collaborators. She was a dedicated scholar of Greek and Roman urban planning as well as ancient craftsmanship. She also took an interest in archaeometrics, pottery studies and Roman painting. From 1982 to 1994 she headed the Museo Civico Archeologico di Bazzano (Bologna). It was then that she studied the museum oil lamp collection. From 1988 to 2005 she directed the research at Castelraimondo (Forgaria nel Friuli, Udine), a subalpine fortified site inhabited from prehistoric to medieval times. Polish students of archaeology from the University of Warsaw took part in this research. An archaeological park was established on this site within the frame of the European Interreg II and III Italia-Austria project. From 1998 to 2005 Sara Santoro led the "Isola del Centenario" project in Pompeii on behalf of the University in Bologna and was scholarly editor of the project's publications. It was then that she was a frequent visitor in Warsaw, giving lectures at the National Museum in Warsaw and the Institute of Archaeology of the University of Warsaw. She gave a paper at the conference dedicated to a decade of research of the University of Warsaw Institute of Archaeology at Tanais in Russia, held in Stawiska in 2005 (Sara Santoro is seventh from left, arm in arm with Iwona Modrzewska-Pianetti, in this photograph from Gdańsk from 2005). From 2001 to 2004 she headed the Durrës project for the University of Parma and the National Archaeological Museum in Durrës, this within the frame of the United Nations Office for Project Services concerning the historical monuments of Albania. From 2004 she was research director of the Italian Mission in Durrës on behalf of the University in Parma and then the University in Chieti-Pescara. For the project she excavated the Roman amphitheater, collaborating with the Institute of Archaeology of the Ministry of Culture of Albania. From 2008 she coordinated the excavation of the Gallo-Roman vicus in Bliesbruck in the Bliesbruck Reinheim archaeological park (Moselle, France). She then headed the research at Corfinio-Campus Santa Maria delle Grazie from 2014. She was director and team member of many international archaeological projects. She was author and co-author of more than 160 publications and coordinated many as a scientific editor.



The archaeological community in Europe mourns her premature passing. Prof. Marco Cavalieri was her student in 1992–1996 while Iwona Modrzewska-Pianetti collaborated with Sara Santoro within the frame of the Erasmus project, lectured at her invitation at the University of Parma and was close friend for many years. Sara was extremely talented musically — she played the piano well and was gifted with a beautiful voice.

Many colleagues in Poland have been deeply moved by her passing. MAGISTRA, SIT TIBI TERRA LEVIS.

Marco Cavalieri, University of Louvain Iwona Modrzewska-Pianetti, University of Warsaw