

## FOREWORD

«Currently, the subject of and the challenges presented by “Heritage” are equally fashionable, and quite appropriately so»<sup>1</sup>. Carlos Alberto Ferreira de Almeida (1934-1996), at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, was keenly aware of the role of Heritage as an asset that necessitates not only a good management but also good practices of management. The author also predicted that «it is in this double aspect, that is, of Heritage as the object of a given community’s memory and identity and, above all, of Heritage as standard of living, that it [Heritage] will not only be the focus of many a eventual discussions but will also certainly attain a greater degree of importance and attention in the future»<sup>2</sup>.

To emphasise these aspects, the Cultural Heritage Management section of the *Genius Loci* International Congress attempted to promote the sharing and the discussion of case studies that were deemed as models of good practices, either because they are noteworthy in the integrated and sustainable development of the inherent essential actions or because of their differentiating and innovative qualities which are factors of development and improvement of the quality of life.

In the present issue, we publish a selection of twenty-three peer reviewed academic papers – which themselves attest to the enlightening multitude of themes that Cultural Heritage Management not only embraces and nurtures but also promotes. Having the intrinsic, long-standing relationship between Heritage and territory as basis, each paper strives to demonstrate and discuss the exerted pressure and strategies of intervention employed by the authors, as well presenting their thorough critical reflections on the results obtained. The aforementioned papers focus mainly on the issues related to industrial, hydraulic and religious heritage assets, their effects on the (inter)national realities and the questions they pose in terms of technological obsolescence, authenticity and preservation of both heritage assets and spaces.

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<sup>1</sup> ALMEIDA, Carlos Alberto Ferreira de (1998) – *Patrimônio, o seu entendimento e a sua gestão*. 2ª ed., Porto: Etnos, p. 9.

<sup>2</sup> ALMEIDA, Carlos Alberto Ferreira de (1998) – *Patrimônio, o seu entendimento e a sua gestão*. 2ª ed., Porto: Etnos, p. 10.

Finally, we must underline the importance of museums and their pivotal roles in the rejuvenation and preservation of memories, in education and in the founding of communities of preservation.

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