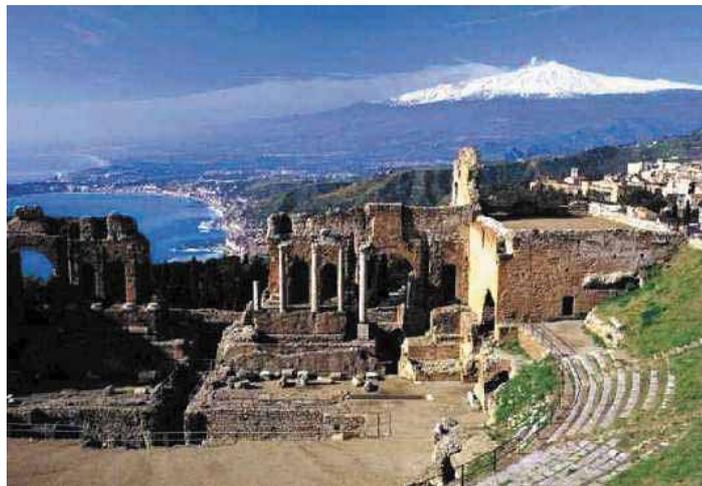

International Numismatic Congress 2015: Messina/Taormina Candidacy

The University of Messina is one of the most ancient Universities in Italy, founded in 1548 (www.unime.it). Maria Caltabiano and Daniele Castrizio are respectively professors of Iconography and History of Ancient Numismatics and Medieval Numismatics. Young numismatists have been collaborating with us on several research projects (e.g. DRACMA: Diffusion and Research on Ancient Coinage of the Mediterranean Area/ Dialogue and Research among Athens, Cyprus, Messina and Agrigento) and in promoting, with the Universities of Bologna, Genoa and Milano, the *Lexicon Iconographicum Numismaticae Classicae et Mediae Aetatis* (<http://lin.unime.it>), with INC patronage.



Theatre of Taormina

Taormina is one of the loveliest resorts in the world, interesting from the archaeological, artistic and cultural point of view, and offers all possible types of accommodation, from luxury hotels to bed-and-breakfasts (www.comune.taormina.me.it; www.taormina-arte.com). Taormina is about 40 km from Catania International Airport, the third largest in Italy. The Palazzo dei Congressi, where the opening ceremony will be organised, is situated in the historic centre of Taormina, near the ancient Graeco-Roman Theatre.

The aims of the Sicilian candidature are:

1. To promote initiatives which provide fellow numismatists with access to coin collections in Sicily, through the recruitment of young scholars of Numismatics, who could ensure the future of the Sicilian coin heritage not only during the Congress but also permanently. Today, Sicily can boast a large number of rich coin collections, which reflect local coin circulation over two thousand years, expressing expansion and control policies, but also acting as a means of integration among different cultures in the same territory. We have already obtained various local and regional patrons and also support at a national and international level. In the next six years leading up to the XVth INC, various interdisciplinary exhibitions are planned (e.g. *The Coin and the Sea*), in addition to the re-organisation and re-opening of the Sicilian coin collections, with the aim of heightening awareness of the role that coinage can play in the knowledge of a people's history and culture.

2. To attract the attention of national and international authorities to our numismatic heritage, to develop its extraordinary potential and promote knowledge of it not only among scholars, but also the general public. Recently the Accademia Italiana di Studi Numismatici (www.accademianumismatica.org) and the Comunità delle Università Mediterranee (www.cmungo.org) have given their patronage to our candidature, to encourage the participation of its 196 members in the XVth INC. To provide a permanent local legacy of the XVth INC, we are planning an international collaboration network among the institutions (museums, universities, numismatic firms and collectors) interested in digital cataloguing and in exhibiting coin collections.

The Accademia Editoriale (Pisa – Roma) will provide the publication expenses of the XVth International Congress Proceedings. The logistic organisation will be provided by the **Società consortile Taormina-Etna** (www.taorminaetna.it), a consortium of public and private institutions and the Universities of Messina, Catania and Enna, whose aim is to promote the socio-economic development of an area which has the largest concentration of tourist attractions in Southern Italy.

Our task is not easy, but we believe in this project and wish to promote it in the conviction that for all peoples the knowledge of their roots, the awareness of their identity and cultural promotion are at the basis of democracy, freedom and mutual comprehension in the national and international sphere.



Maria Caccamo Caltabiano and collaborators

Maria Caccamo Caltabiano, in collaboration with Daniele Castrizio, Benedetto Carroccio, Mariangela Puglisi, Angela D'Arrigo, Grazia Salamone, Daniela Trifirò, Anna Carbè

Scientific advisors: Ermanno Arslan (Accademico dei Lincei, honoray member of the INC: www.ermannoarslan.eu) and Lucia Travaini (Università di Milano: www.luciatravaini.it).

Honorary members of the committee: Sebastiana Consolo Langher; Giacomo Manganaro; Aldina Tusa Cutroni.