



Geological Materials and Cultural Heritage through the Millennia

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Message from the Guest Editor

An important part of what gives an artifact or a building character and a sense of belonging is the history they represent. One way of acknowledging this history is by understanding the materials' values, their sources, their diffusion through trade and use, and the processes behind their manufacturing or building. These peculiar features may be an example of a particular style of architecture, represent a significant era, represent superb craftsmanship and exquisite artistic features that were achieved during a significant period, or also represent a milestone in a city's history. These historical and cultural heritages are worth preserving for an endless number of reasons. Old artifacts or buildings are witnesses to a society's aesthetic and cultural history, helping to give people a sense of place and connection to the past.

Historical and cultural heritage is often created with unique, valuable geomaterials. These were used over space and time as implements, ornaments, pigments, building materials, and raw materials for metals, ceramics, and other processed products. They may have detailing and features that cannot be found anymore.



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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

We live in a Quaternary world, that is, a world shaped by the interplay of the different compartments of the earth system—lithosphere, hydrosphere, atmosphere, biosphere, cryosphere—during the last ~2.6 million years. It is not possible to understand the current world—and, hence, to anticipate its possible future developments—without knowing the Quaternary history of drivers, processes, and mechanisms that have generated it. Our own species is an evolutionary outcome of the Quaternary performance. Therefore, the journal *Quaternary* is born with the aim of being an integrative journal to encompass all aspects of Quaternary science focused on understanding the complex world in which we live and to provide a sound scientific basis to anticipate possible future trends and inform environmental policies.

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