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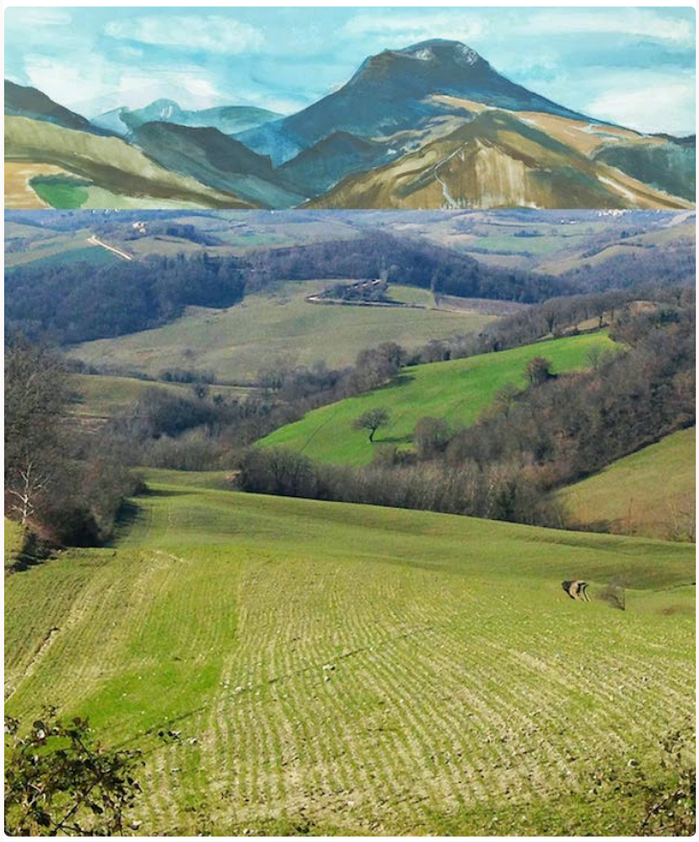
Newsletter #10 December 2021

Coldigioco/Le Montagne di San Francesco

The Osservatorio Geologico di Coldigioco is a geological, educational, and artistic institute at the foot of Monte San Vicino in the Marche Apennine Mountains of Italy, devoted to interdisciplinary research and teaching.



Monte San Vicino and San Clemente Valley photocollage.
Top: ***Acrylic on canvas by Paula Metallo***
Bottom: ***Photograph by Alessandro Montanari***

Dear Friends of Coldigioco,

Although the pandemic has reduced the number of visitors to Coldigioco this past year, it has not reduced the amount of interdisciplinary scientific activity. Geological, biological, and archaeological research in the Frasassi Caves is flourishing with international research teams using Coldigioco as a base. There is exciting collaboration with archaeologists utilizing the Big History approach of integration across disciplines. A number of scientific journal publications have resulted from research supported by the Associazione Le Montagne di San Francesco.

This year there is a special opportunity to support Coldigioco and in return receive a one-volume hard copy reproduction of the three geology guest books from the historic Bottaccione Gorge site at Gubbio. Many of you have had the good fortune to make the pilgrimage, visit the K/T outcrop, eat at the Bottaccione Ristorante, and sign one of these unique geological documents.

Looking ahead to 2022, we will be recognizing exciting milestones. It will be the 30th anniversary of the Osservatorio Geologico di Coldgioco. It will also be the 10th anniversary of both the Associazione Le Montagne di San Francesco and the Teatro di Onisio under the direction of Fiorenza Montanari and Andrea Quatrini. We hope that travel will become easier and that many of you will be able to visit Coldigioco so that we can thank you in person for your support and encouragement these past three decades.

Historical Bottaccione Geology Guest Books record over four decades of visitors to Gubbio Site. Support Coldigioco and be the proud owner of your own copy !!

Amacord Bottaccione **(I Remember Bottacione)** ***is a hard-copy reproduction of the 3 volumes of guest books at the Ristorante Bottaccione signed by hundreds of visitors who have made the pilgrimage to the geological section since 1976.***
See Introduction to *Amacord Bottaccione*

Sign up to donate and receive your copy of *Amacord Bottaccione*

Geo-Archaeo-Bio Research in Frasassi Caves

From L to R: ***Alessandro Riga (Università degli Studi di Firenze); Domenico Giusti (Università di Tubingen); Alessandro Montanari (OGC); Stefano Recanatini, Maurizio Mainiero (Gruppo Speleologico Marchigiano); Marco Peter Ferretti (Università degli Studi di Camerino); Daniele Ferranti (Gruppo Speleologico Montelago).***

From L to R standing: ***Stefano Recanatini, Elena Governa, Paolo Grillantini (holding a newly discovered skull of Ibex) (Gruppo Speleologico Marchigiano); Angelica Ferracci (Università degli Studi di Roma Tor Vergata); Andrea Gianangeli (Gruppo Speleologico Montelago); Marcello Papi (Gruppo Speleologico CAI Fabriano).*** **From L to R kneeling:** ***Marco Peter Ferretti (Università degli Studi di Camerino); Alessandro Riga (Università degli Studi di Firenze); Domenico Giusti (Università di Tubinga). Photo by Maurizio Mainiero (Gruppo Speleologico Marchigiano).***

From L to R: ***Stefano Recanatini and Maurizio Mainiero (Gruppo Speleologico Marchigiano), Claire Chauveau (Université Libre de Bruxelles); Geotriton Speleomantes italicus.***

From L to R: ***Jenn Macalady (Penn State University/Coldigioco); Mackenzie Best, Daniel S. Jones, and Zoë Havlena (New Mexico Tech); Heidi Aronson (University of Southern California); Shavonne Morin (Penn State University).***

Members of Macalady's Research Team at Frasassi Cave: Ilenia D'Angeli (Università degli Studi di Bologna - seated foreground), Ilaria Vaccarelli (Università degli Studi dell'Aquila - perched seated), and Sandro Mariani (perched standing). Stefano Recanatini and Maurizio Mainiero (Gruppo Speleologico Marchigiano) also took part in the research.

Using Coldigioco as their base camp, Jenn Macalady and MacKenzie Best sort out caving gear used for research expeditions into the Frasassi Caves. An observant Poe is always hoping for treats.

Macalady Research Projects Supported by OGC/LMDSF

Geo-Archaeology-Gastro Sampling at Paestum

After sampling cores of sediments from an ancient lagoon, which was utilized by a 6th century BCE Greek colony as the port of the newly founded city of Posidonia, later called Paestum, Paula Metallo (OGC), Albert Ammerman (Colgate University), and Alessandro Montanari (OGC) sample Southern Italian cuisine.

OGC/LMDSF Publications

Anastasio, D.J., Pazzaglia, F.J., Parés. J.M., Kodama, K.P., Berti, C., Fisher, J.A., Montanari, A., and Karnes, L.K., 2021, Application of anisotropy of magnetic susceptibility (AMS) fabrics to determine the kinematics of active tectonics: examples from the Betic Cordillera, Spain, and the Northern Apennines, Italy: Solid Earth, v. 12, p. 1125-1142.

Kasbohm, J., Shoene, B., Montanari, A., and Coccioni, R., 2021, High-precision U–Pb zircon geochronology of the Miocene Bisciaro Formation, Contessa Section, Italy: A case study for requisite radioisotopic calibration of bio- and magnetostratigraphy: Palaeogeography, Palaeoclimatology, Palaeoecology, v. 576, 110487.

Montanari, A., Cerveau, N., Fiasca, B., Flot, J-F. Galassi, D., Mainiero, M., McGee, D., Tadeusz, N., Recanatini, S., and Stoch, F., 2021, Stygobitic crustaceans in an anchialine cave with an archeological heritage at Vodeni Rat (Island of Sveti Klement, Hvar, Croatia): International Journal of Speleology, v. 50, p. 1-1

Geological Society of America Special Paper 557 to be published in 2022: From the Guajira Desert to the Apennines, and from Mediterranean Microplates to the Mexican Killer Asteroid: Honoring the Career of Walter Alvarez. Edited by Christian Koeberl, Philippe Claeys, and Alessandro Montanari.

WORKS IN PROGRESS SPONSORED BY LMDSF: Speleo-geologico-archaeo research projects and Frasassi Little Big History e-book

There are a number of interdisciplinary research projects underway supported by LMDSF. Among these are extensive detailed investigations of the Frasassi Caves, including seismic events, cyclic climate variations, stratigraphy of cave sediments, age dating, and archaeometric analyses. The paleoenvironmental analysis of lagunal and travertine deposits around the archaeological site of Paestum is another collaborative project.

Also near completion is a free-access e-book *Frasassi: la Piccola Grande Storia delle Grotte*, which will be available to middle and high school students in the Marche and Umbria regions.

Teatro di Onisio

Onisio Theater Company

The Onisio Theater Company under the direction of Fiorenza Montanari and Andrea Quatrini was finally able to reopen in October after a year of closure. The Teatro Mestica 2021-22 three-part season "Sasso, Carta e Forbice" (Rock, Paper, and Scissors) will include a selection of children's theater, visiting theater companies, dance, music, prose, and cinema. The Associazione Culturale Teatro di Onisio in partnership with Le Montagne di San Francesco offers creative, innovative theater and drama classes to Apiro and surrounding communities.

Village Life at Coldigioco

Activities around Coldigioco village: egg-producing chickens, vegetable garden, Paula Metallo bottling pomodori, olive trees and 2021 harvest by gardener Alecia Ball, Max Montanari and the wood-fired oven at a pizza party hosted by Christian Koeberl and Dona Jalufka in their garden to celebrate the completion of a new shelter for Coldigioco's antique painted cart (biroccio).

Become a Proud Supporter of LMDSF

L'Associazione Le Montagne di San Francesco (LMDSF) is the non-profit Association established in 2012 which makes it possible to support geological research, education, art, theatrical productions, and cultural events. Donations to the Association allow us to maintain the Geological Observatory of Coldigioco and to provide researchers and students the opportunity to study and experience this unique setting with 250 million years of Earth history available for study in the Apennines.

Please support Coldigioco's unique mission of education, research, and art.

Make a Donation to LMDSF

How to Donate

1. Bank Transfer
When you send a bank transfer, please notify Sandro of the amount you are sending, for his records.

2. US Tax Deductible
Make online donation through CAFAmerica (US $500 minimum) or you can mail a check to CAFAmerica with Gift Form. Please notify Sandro of your donation.

We greatly appreciate the many Friends of Coldigioco whose support makes it possible to continue to do geological research in the Mountains of Saint Francis, to teach geology and environmental studies, and to bring art and theater to the Marche Region.

Tante grazie!

Milly and Walter Alvarez
Paula Metallo and Sandro Montanari

Cda. Coldigioco,13, 62021 Apiro (MC) Italy
Tel. 011-39-0733-618291

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