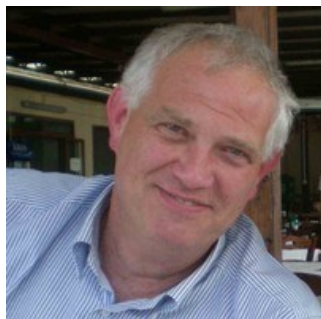




Paolo Censi

Daniela Varrica and Orlando Vaselli



Prof. Paolo Censi, associate professor of geochemistry of the Department of Earth and Marine Sciences of the University of Palermo, passed away prematurely at the age of 64. His career began in the early 1980s in the Laboratory of Isotope Geochemistry at Institute of Mineralogy, Petrography and Geochemistry, where he intimately collaborated with Prof. Antonio Longinelli. The research activity of Paolo, over the last forty years, has ranged in numerous areas of geochemistry, from initial studies in the isotopic field, to environmental and medical geochemistry and then, he focused his scientific activity in investigating the geochemical behavior of rare earths. His contributions to the

most prestigious international scientific journals are numerous and innovative. With him goes a person who transmitted scientific rigor and passion for research to students and young researchers, and could still have given much to the world of research. The professor. Paolo Censi left a void within the Department also due to his integrity and his ability to face life with the right amount of irony. In 1997, Paolo helped the group of Geochemistry to install the separation and purification rack for preparing the samples for the isotopic analysis of oxygen and hydrogen in water, carbon and oxygen in carbonates and carbon in CO₂ and then, he also intervened during the set-up of the mass

spectrometer. You have to imagine that we were two of us who had never worked with isotopes. Well, while assembling the separation and purification rack, Paolo realized that we were completely ignorant on how the vials, the sample-holders and as forth had to be placed. However, we were having a good time and we were enjoying but, after several errors we did, he said while smiling: "Siete dei bovini, braccia strappate all'agricoltura" that in English sounds as: "You are like bovines, your arms have been torn away from agriculture". Paolo will always remain in our hearths!

Daniela Varrica (UNIPA)
Orlando Vaselli (UNIFI)