San Gemini Preservation Studies
International Institute for Restoration and Preservation Studies
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Archaeological Ceramics Restoration Project, San Gemini, Italy 2012
Course: SG203B - Introduction to Conservation of Archaeological Ceramics – Part 2, Workshop

Instructors:
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FINAL CONSERVATION REPORT

Reference data and description
Lucerna (lamp), inv. 536134, from S. Maria in Pantano, II a.d.

Condition report
The lamp is an earthenware object of buff colour in fragmentary state and a bit lacunose, made by mold, with a deformation of the body from the production, porous, with no treatment of the surface and with a lot of encrustations and some calcium encrustations

Restoration

1. Documentation

The 1st part of the work has been making pictures of the object before start the restoration, I put the lamp and the fragments on a dark background under two lights to have less shadows; I took one picture of the upper part and one of the back. After I took the stamp of the picture, I put over a transparent plastic sheet and with a dark colour I did the outlines of the object and of the fragments and with a red color I coloured the fabric defects.
I took pictures also during the process of restoration, two pictures from the front and from the back after the cleaning, two pictures after the gluing and the joining with tape, four pictures after that I removed the tape useful to see the kind of integration I had to do.

2. Cleaning (which method you used, its characteristics, how and why)

I've done a mechanical cleaning with the scalpel with a blade number 15 over the surface and in some fragments in the inside too, this method has to be done very carefully for this kind of object that present a very porous and soft clay; in some part I used the probe to remove encrustations from the inside of small holes; after the 1st cleaning I've changed the technique for the upper part close to the hole of the object that presented a difference in the surface maybe because of some mistake during the firing, so for this specific part I used a wooden stick with a cotton swab and ethanol to remove the dust; not all the dust has been removed from the surface, but some encrustations has been left. After the cleaning I did the consolidation of the lamp into a bowl with a solution of 2,5% of Paraloid B72 in acetone.

3. Bonding

Before starting the joining of the fragments I used on the edges of the lamp two layers of a solution of 2% of Mowital B6oHH in ethanol and then three layers of a solution of 5% of Mowital in acetone, the final result is the resistant of the edges to the water and a glossy surface.
The clay of the lamp is really soft and delicate so it needed again a consolidation in one layer with brush with a solution of 2,5% Paraloid B72 in ethanol.
After this process I started to glue. I choose a glue made by 20% of Paraloid B72 in acetone that I put on the edges of the lamp and of the fragments, piece by piece, using the tape to connect one with the other; I took picture of the object with the joining; after some day I took off the tape with a probe in the angle and I use ethanol with a brush before to wet the tape and to help me during the removing of the tape because this one was taking away some fragment of the surface.

4. Filling

Before filling the object on the missing parts is better to choose the right color that it might be in the same tone but lighter than the one of the object.
I put 20 grams of Polyfilla in a plastic bag, and then I had a combination of differents pigments, starting from the burnt sienna, yellow ochre, raw sienna, burnt umber, raw umber; when I found the right tone or the most close to the color of the object, I put in a small bowl some of this powder and then I added with a dump, dot by dot, demineralized water to obtain a fluid compost that I put in a stamp to have a sample. When the sample was dry I had to obtain a flat surface and I used the sandpaper starting from the lower number, that is stronger, and then I changed three times, P180, P280, P320; when the surface was smooth I had to choose the color of the consolidant not in high percentage to put on the future integrations; I divided in four parts my sample and tried in a quarter with a solution of 1,5% Mowital in ethanol, then in another quarter 2,5% of Mowital in ethanol, then 3 % and I tried also the 5% of Paraloid B72 in ethanol.
I did the fillings of the missing parts and when they were dry, with a scalpel of blade 15 I tried to remove the not useful parts and to put in evidence the edges and to create an underlevel.

5. Other notes

Photo (before)

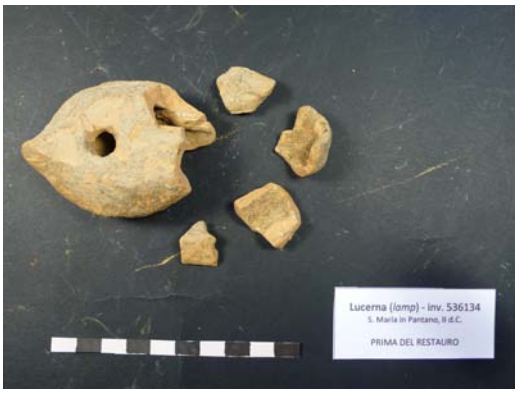


Photo (Before)

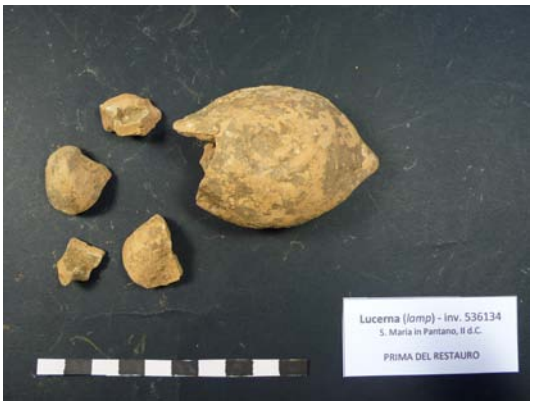
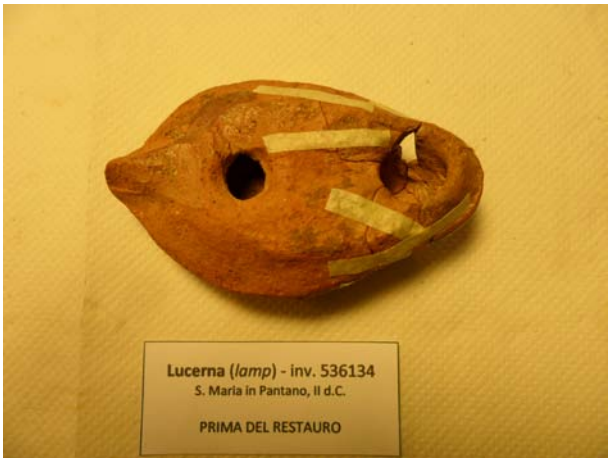
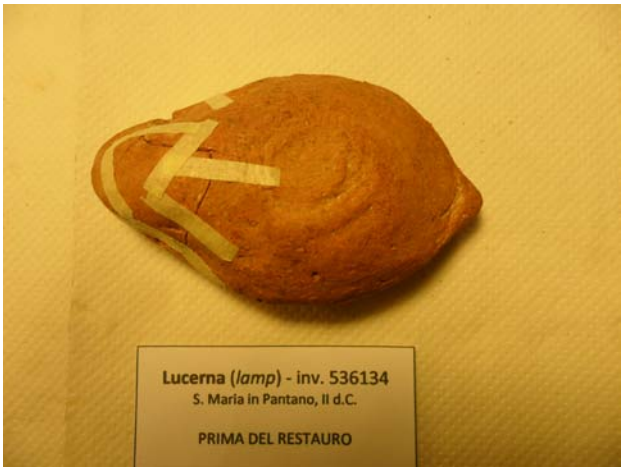
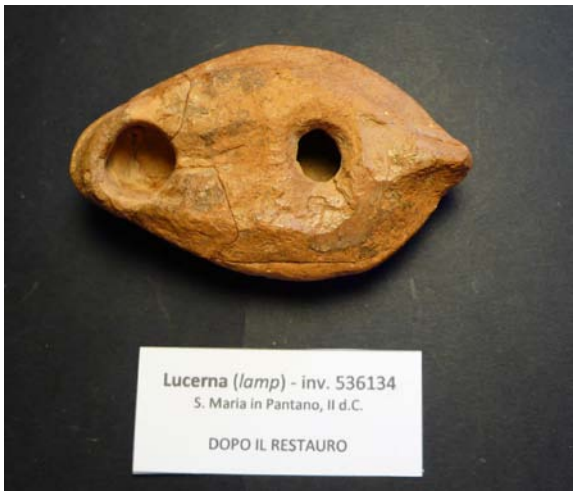


Photo (during)  	Photo (during) 
Photo (after)  	Photo (after)