



Archaeological Ceramics Restoration Project, San Gemini, Italy 2012
Course: SG203B - Introduction to Conservation of Archaeological Ceramics – Part 2, Workshop

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FINAL CONSERVATION REPORT

Reference data and description
Clibano 373829 Bevagna, state owned- 43 fragments total, originally mixed with fragments from possibly 2 other vessels.
Condition report
The Clibano arrived in 43 pieces. It had a porous fabric with large temper grains of white and black. Both sides and many of the broken edges of each sherd were covered in soil encrustations. Several of the sherds had freshly broken edges which exposed the original clay body. The largest sherds had some abrasions, both encrusted and fresh, as well as a few fractures.
Restoration
<i>1. Documentation</i>
The process was documented in a written report along with photographic documentation before, during, and at the end of each stage. Along with the written and photographic evidence, several of the fragments were traced on a transparent sheet with color-coded documentation of abrasions, fractures, and chips on the outer side of the sherds. Graphically, encrustations weren't noted as the entire surface of the sherds were covered in soil deposits.
<i>2. Cleaning (which method you used, its characteristics, how and why)</i>
To begin cleaning, we used a size 10 scalpel blade to begin scraping the encrustation off since this allowed more precision and less chance of damaging the surface. Since there were many sherds, this process, though it yielded good results, wasn't fast enough, so we switched to washing off the soil encrustation using a cotton swab and water in a 50/50 mixture with ethanol so it would dry faster than water alone (since piece is very porous).
<i>3. Bonding</i>
After cleaning a couple of small (≤ 1 cm) chips in a couple of the larger sherds were reattached using a pretreatment of 1 layer of 3% polyvinyl butinal resin (Mowital B 60 HH) in ethanol and a 2 nd layer of 5% Mowital B 60 HH in ethanol followed by 20% Mowital B 60 HH in ethanol for the actual bonding. The rest sherds were consolidated using a 2.5% paraloid B72 in acetone bath. Then, joining edges were prepped using a brush to cover both sides with 2 layers of 2.5% acrylic resin(Paraloyd B72) in acetone, followed by 1 layer of 10% Paraloyd B72 in acetone. One side of the joining sections was then brushed with 20% Paraloyd B72 in acetone and held in place for a couple in minutes before being taped together and put aside to dry.

4. Filling

Filling was made out of a plaster and cellulose resin mixture (Polyfilla) due to its weak strength and the easy moldability of the material. The Polyfilla was mixed with Burnt Sienna Earth (a yellow-brown), Raw Sienna (a red), and Burnt Umber (a warm brown) pigments to mimic the red-brown tone of the clay body. Due to the very porous nature of the clay body, white sand and small gray/black inert temper grains were also added to the polyfilla.

5. Other notes

41 out of 43 pieces were placed; the remaining 2 didn't seem to connect to any of the other sherds. Encrustations were also left on the interior surface of the vessel due to time constrains, though they should be removable with a thorough swabbing with an acetone solution.

Photo (before)



Photo (during)



Photo (during)



Photo (during)



Photo (during)



Photo (after)

