San Gemini Preservation Studies
International Institute for Restoration and Preservation Studies
203 Seventh Ave Brooklyn, NY 11215, USA

Archaeological Ceramics Restoration Project, San Gemini, Italy 2013
Course: SG203B - Introduction to Conservation of Archaeological Ceramics – Part 2, Workshop

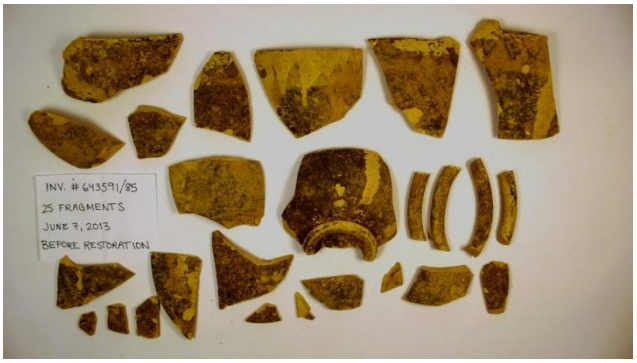
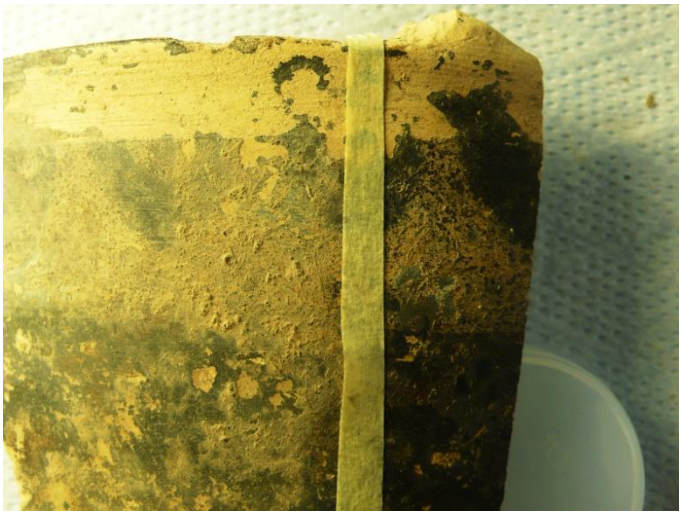
Instructor:
Prof. Elena Raimondi (Project Conservator / Restorer)

Student restorer	Alexandra Beuscher
Student's Home University	Connecticut College

FINAL CONSERVATION REPORT

Reference data	642591/85
Description (shape and decoration)	Basket - Morel 6513a1 with a wave pattern in white paint beneath rim and an incised spiral around the body.
Provenence	Burial site near Norcia
Period/ Date	330-290 BC
Owner	Italian State/ Museo Archeologico Nazionale dell'Umbria
Restoration Notes	
1. Documentation	Text and digital photo
2. Cleaning method	Pot was cleaned mechanically using a scalpel. In the most unstable areas only acetone was used with a cotton swab. On more stable sections, a combination of water and ethanol was used with a cotton swab. In the unstable sections, cleaning was laborious because acetone was ineffective in the removal of soil. The scalpel had to be used to gently remove the soil. In some cases a 4:1 mixture of acetone and water was used in these areas after the scalpel. Little areas of the surface coating was inevitably removed or damaged in the process due to it's

	extreme instability. Soil was removed from the incised spiral decoration with a dental probe and magnifying glass. Vegetal roots were removed from the interior of the pot with a scalpel, however in some sections the clay body was too soft to remove the tiny roots. In one shard after removing what was believed to be an encrustation, possibly calcareous, a white color was revealed underneath. It was soon discovered to be a pattern in white paint in the shape of waves encircling the pot beneath the rim. where the paint was removed there remains the white "shadow" of the paint. The handles of the pot proved to be extremely unstable with a very soft fabric, so they were cleaned by rolling a cotton swab with acetone over the surface repeatedly until most of the soil was removed.
3. Bonding	Due to its unstable nature, the pot was preconsolidated with an acrylic resin (Paraloid B-72) dissolved in acetone at 2.5% applied by brush. The connections were mapped out graphically on trace paper. A test was made to consider the affect of the tape on the surface, and the results indicated that the use of tape, after the consolidation, was safe. The shards were taped together in the correct way. Despite preconsolidation, and the test results, the tape removed some of the surface coating. The damaged areas were consolidated with the Paraloid formula at 2.5% in order to strengthen them, and achieve a more unified color. The edges were primed with Paraloid. One coat at 2.5% and then two more coats at 5%. Bonding began at the rim because there were not enough connecting shards at the base. Paraloid formula was used at 20%, and tape was applied to keep the shape while drying. Tape was carefully removed using water to wet the tape's adhesive, and it caused minimal damage in this way. Water was used instead of acetone because acetone would have removed the resin applied on the surface for pre consolidation, and would have weakened the surface. Excess Paraloid 20% was removed with a cotton swab and acetone.
4. Filling	Plaster of Paris with pigment was used for the filling. The pigment included a mixture of limonite and raw sienna. 165 grams of the pigmented plaster was mixed with 11 spatulas of limonite, and 25 spatulas of raw sienna. Warm dental wax was molded around base, and a mold of the base was formed and filled with the plaster by pouring and building with the spatula. Cracks and lacunae in the body were also filled. There was no time to fill the rest of the rim or recreate the lack of the handle. A second coat of plaster was added to the base to reach the correct shape. Plaster was shaped with a scalpel and other various tools to achieve the correct shape and under level. Paraloid B72 at 2% in acetone applied by brush was used to

	protect the fillings.
5. Other notes	The handles will can be glue to the body together with the reconstruction of the missing part of the rim.
6. Short photographic documentation	
Before 	During 
	

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