

Conservation Director's Report: 2008 Season

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INTRODUCTION

This report provides a brief overview of the work carried out by the conservation staff at Kaman-Kalehöyük during the 2008 excavation season. I initiated my new position as Director of Conservation at Kaman-Kalehöyük from June 26 to July 10, 2008. Nina Zaitseva served as Field Conservator from August 8 to September 8, 2008, and Serap Çelik served as Assistant Conservator from July 4 for four weeks.

EDUCATION

Serap Çelik supervised two conservation student interns, Yasin Sevinç and Mihrican Gürçan, from Ankara University Başkent Vocational School, Department of Conservation and Restoration. They were given the opportunity to work on freshly excavated material as well as on artifacts from the collection. The internship program will continue in the summer of 2009 (see Research).

RESEARCH

Research Component of Annual Conservation Student Internship Program

The research component of the annual conservation student internship program, initiated by Glenn Wharton (former Director of Conservation), will be reinstated in the summer of 2009. The research component involves the assignment of a research project to each conservation student intern based on the conservation needs of the excavation materials at Kaman-Kalehöyük.

Iron and Bronze Projects

Two projects carried out by previous student interns were reviewed, assessed, summarized, and concluded by the Director of Conservation. They are the iron desalination and stabilization project of Laramie Hickey-Friedman (Hickey-Friedman 2000 ; 2001) and the bronze stabilization project of Stavroula Golfomitsou (Golfomitsou 2001).

Desalination, Stabilization, and Storage of Iron Artifacts

In the case of the iron project the condition of all the iron objects treated and enclosed by Laramie in plastic storage bags was assessed by visual and stereomicroscopic examination and recorded in a condition report. The results were tabulated and conclusions were drawn regarding the degree of success of the methods and materials used for treatment and storage. The most important results of the iron project emphasize 1) the importance of following treatment instructions to the letter (in this case the alkaline sulfite method for iron desalination) to achieve an efficient outcome and 2) the long-term protective qualities of the RPSystem[®] for the storage of iron in a desiccated and low-oxygen micro-environment. Laramie Hickey-Friedman has published a preliminary report of this project in "Desalination and Storage of Archaeological Iron Artifacts" Vol. IX, 2000, 245-250, and in "Practical Survey of the RP System" Vol. X, 2001, 225-230, of the *Anatolian Archaeological Studies(AAS)* journal.

Stabilization of Bronze Artifacts

In the case of the bronze objects, the condition of 219 bronze objects treated by Stavroula with various corrosion inhibitors was assessed by visual and stereomicroscopic examination and tabulated

in a condition report. The critical results of the bronze project indicate that after 8 years the most efficient corrosion inhibitors of those tested for the protection of archaeological bronze are a mixture of BTA (Benzotriazole) and AMT (5-Amino-2 Mercapto-1, 3, 4-Thiadiazole). Stavroula Golfomitsou has published some preliminary results from Kaman in "Preliminary Experimental Results of Corrosion Inhibition of Copper/Copper alloy Artifacts from the Archaeological Site of Kaman-Kalehöyük" in *AAS*, Vol. X, 2001, 211-215; initial results after treatment of the Kaman objects in "Synergistic Effects of Corrosion Inhibitors for Copper and Copper Alloy Archaeological Artefacts", in *Metal 04, Preprints of the ICOM-CC Metal Working Group, Canberra, 4-8 October 2004*, 344-368; and the results of combined inhibitors without specific reference to Kaman in "Understanding the Efficiency of Combined Inhibitors for the Treatment of Corroded Copper Artefacts" in *Metal 07, Preprints of the ICOM-CC Metal Working Group, Amsterdam, 17-21 September 2007*, 38-43.

Now that these two projects have undergone a final, long-term assessment the concluding results will be published in the international conservation literature by the respective project coordinator for access by conservators worldwide.

DISSEMINATION OF CONSERVATION RESEARCH FROM KAMAN-KALEHÖYÜK

Conservation papers in the journal *AAS*, published by the Japanese Institute of Anatolian Archaeology, will be submitted to two online conservation bibliographic databases, AATA (<http://aata.getty.edu>) and BCIN (<http://www.bcin.ca>), so that the conservation student research projects and conservation annual reports will be made known to conservators around the world.

NEW FACILITY

The new research facility, recently constructed on site for the Japanese Institute of Anatolian Archaeology that houses the new conservation laboratory and new storage areas, was inspected by the Director of Conservation in 2008. Plans to move from the old to the new conservation laboratory are underway. The results of previous conservation research into storage methods and materials carried out at Kaman-Kalehöyük will prove invaluable for the move and installation of the collection into the new facility.

FUTURE COURSES AND SYMPOSIA

Future plans for Conservation at Kaman-Kalehöyük were drawn up in 2008 and consist of hosting a Workshop for conservators on Materials Characterization and Spot Testing, to be held in July 2010 and presented by Nancy Odegaard and Scott Carrlee (Scott Carroll). Conservation plans also include the sponsorship of an International Conservation Conference for Archaeological Conservators from Turkey and other countries in the summer of 2011. The Workshop will be held in the Conservation Laboratory and the Conference will be held in the Auditorium of the new Japanese Institute of Anatolian Archaeology Research Center.

SUMMARY

It is with great pleasure that I completed my first season as Director of Conservation in which I accomplished three main goals: reinstatement of the research project element of the annual conservation student internship program in 2009; organization of the Workshop for conservators on Materials Characterization and Spot Testing in 2010; initiation planning for the International Conservation Symposium in 2011. The conservation staff is looking forward with great excitement to the move to the new Conservation Laboratory and to rehousing the collection in the new permanent storage facility on site.

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