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POMPEII ARTIFACT LIFE HISTORY PROJECT: 2018 FIELD SEASON

Stahl Field Report #25

2018, Archaeological Research Facility, UC Berkeley

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The Stahl Fund provided substantial financial support for the sixth field season of the Pompeii Artifact Life History Project (PALHIP), carried out at Pompeii (Napoli), Italy, between June 30 and July 28, 2018. The PALHIP team consisted of five persons: the author of this report as project director (JTP), and four assistants: Aaron Brown (AB) and Ryan Reynolds (RR), both graduate students in the University of California, Berkeley Graduate Program in Classical Archaeology; Susanna Faas-Bush (SFB), an entering graduate student in this program for academic year 2018-2019; and Sara Eriksson (SE), a graduate student in the Department of Archaeology and Ancient History at Lund University (Sweden) and a visiting student at the University of California, Berkeley for academic year 2017-2018. (fig. 1)

PALHIP is a long-term program of research designed to elucidate aspects of the life history of Roman material culture in the town of Pompeii and at some of the sites in its environs through the detailed characterization of sets of artifacts recovered in the course of previously completed excavations in contexts that promise to be particularly informative in this regard. Each of the studies of a particular group of materials is represented as a distinct “sub-project.”

In the course of its first five study seasons (carried out during the period June-July in the years 2012-2016) the PALHIP team completed six such sub-projects:

Sub-Project 1: The study of the portable artifacts from the excavations of the Villa Regina (Boscotrecase). (2012, 2013, 2016 study seasons)

Sub-Project 2: The study of the artifacts from test trenches and cesspits recovered in the excavations in the street to the west of the Insula dei Casti Amanti (Pompeii). (2013 study season)

Sub-Project 3: The study of the artifacts from the excavations of refuse middens outside the Pompeii fortification walls in the area between Tower VIII and the Porta di Nola (Pompeii). (2014, 2015, 2016 study seasons)

Sub-Project 4: The study of the *dolia* uncovered in the excavations of Insula I.22 (Pompeii). (2014, 2015, 2016 study seasons)

Sub-Project 5: The physical, mineralogical, and chemical characterization of pottery with manufacturing defects from the Tower VIII/Porta di Nola middens (undertaken in collaboration with the archaeometry group at the Università Federico Secondo di Napoli directed by Professor Vincenzo Morra) (2015-2016)

Sub-Project 6: The study of a selection of amphoras recovered in the excavations of Villa B (Oplontis). (2016 study season).

The 2018 season marked the beginning of the second phase of the project, Sub-Project 7, that is projected as a series of five study seasons (to be carried out 2018-2022) in which the team will focus on the description and analysis of the sets of artifacts recovered in the excavation of eight houses of modest size that occupy one specific block in the city of Pompeii - Regio I, Insula 11 (I.11) - with a view to elucidating patterns of household consumption in the middle and lower ranges of the socio-economic scale in the final period of the town's occupation. (figs. 2-3) This block was excavated in its entirety under Vittorio Spinazzola during the period 1912-1913 and Amedeo Maiuri during the years 1952-1962, with most of the artifacts recovered in this work remaining unstudied and unpublished. The residences in question are the following (according the address system employed to identify properties at Pompeii): I.11.5.8; I.11.6.7; I.11.12; I.11.13; I.11.14; I.11.15.9; I.11.16; I.11.17). (tab. 1)

The team, which worked in the recently-opened laboratory at the Casa di Bacco storage facility at Pompeii, began with the documentation of the artifact assemblage from the so-called Casa di Lucius Habonius Primus (I.11.5.8) (CLHP) (fig. 3), completing the description and photography of all items in the Pompeii artifact inventory from this property currently housed in the storerooms at the Casa di Bacco except for a small number held in secure storage on account of their exceptional value. The team then turned to the documentation of the artifact assemblage from the so-called Casa Imperiale (I.11.17) (CI) (fig. 3), completing the description and photography of a large portion of these items, including all vessels in glass, ceramic, marble, and rock crystal, and nearly all of those in bronze.

This work involved the application of protocols for the description of artifact morphology, micromorphology, and use alterations developed in the course of earlier seasons; the extensive macrophotography of all artifacts using a Nikon D5000 digital SLR camera; and the creation for each artifact of a record in a comprehensive database created in FileMaker Pro 12 developed in the course of earlier seasons. The database was run on a MacBook Pro with project members creating and updating records through file sharing using iPads running the app FileMaker Go. In addition, a limited number of artifacts were examined under UV light for residues, subjected to microphotography on localized areas of interest using a DinoLite AM 413T digital microscope, and/or scanned for the purpose of developing a 3D digital model using a Structure Scanner run via an iPad 3. (fig. 4)

For this work the various project members had specific areas of responsibility, as follows:

JTP: overall direction and coordination; spreadsheet and database management; description/documentation of pottery.

AB: catalog and archival work; description/documentation of metal artifacts.

SE: catalog work; artifact scanning; description/documentation of metal artifacts.

SFB: photography; description/documentation of assorted minor categories of artifacts.

RR: processing of database photographs; description/documentation of glass artifacts and lamps (in both bronze and ceramic).

The team completed the description and documentation of 105 items from CLHP. These included 59 objects in copper alloy (i.e., bronze) (many of which embody minor elements in iron and/or lead) (8 vessels, 2 lamps, 1 strigil, 1 bell, 1 candelabrum, 3 statuettes, 1 seal (?), 1 needle, 2 rings, 3 items of horse furniture, 22 strap hinges, 3 furniture pulls, 2 furniture escutcheons, 1 cylinder of uncertain

function [perhaps a furniture fitting], 5 lock deadbolts, 1 lock casing, and 2 nails); 6 objects in iron (1 hinge; 1 door latch, 1 lock casing, 3 keys); 10 objects in ceramic (8 lamps, 2 sigillata vessels); 29 glass vessels; and 1 item consisting of fragments of wood transfer from a bronze hinge. We also completed the description and documentation of 96 items from CI. These included 34 objects in copper alloy (some of which embody minor elements in iron and/or lead) (27 vessels, 2 lamps, 2 strigils, 3 balance elements); 8 objects in ceramic (5 lamps, 3 sigillata vessels); 51 glass vessels; 1 vessel in rock crystal; and 1 mortar and 1 pestle in white marble.

Although it is too early to draw any general conclusions regarding our work with these two residential artifact assemblages, we were impressed with the large numbers of both sheet bronze and glass vessels from both properties, and were able to document various kinds of use alteration that provide important evidence regarding the use and curation of these items. (figs. 5-7) Our results also present interesting points of contrast with the artifact assemblage that the team previously evaluated from the Villa Regina, a farm villa at Boscoreale 1.2 km, to the WNW of Pompeii.

For the 2019 season the team plans to continue this work, completing the documentation of the artifact assemblage from CI, and then moving on to the documentation of the assemblages from two more houses in Insula I.11, the so-called Casa di Saturnius (I.11.16) and the Casa del Piano Superiore (I.11.15.9).

The author would like to thank the following individuals for their generous assistance in the organizing and conduct of the 2018 PALHIP field season: Massimo Osanna, Grete Stefani, Marialaura Iadanza, Domenico Buzziello, and Ulderico Franco.

Address	Function(s)	Name	Ground Floor	Quartile
I.11.1.2	Caupona & shop	None	190 m ²	3rd
I.11.3	Taberna & shop	None	10 m ²	1st
I.11.4	Shop	None	10 m ²	1st
I.11.5.8	House & shop	C. di L. Habonius Primus	325 m ²	3rd
I.11.6.7	House	C. della Venere in Bikini	170 m ²	2nd
I.11.10.11	Caupona & vineyard	Caupona of Euxinus and Iustus	400 m ²	4th
I.11.12	House	C. di Euxinus	340 m ²	3rd
I.11.13	House	None	170 m ²	2nd
I.11.14	House	C. del Cherem	400 m ²	4th
I.11.15.9	House	C. del Piano Superiore	460 m ²	4th
I.11.16	House & hospitium	C. di Saturnius	150 m ²	2nd
I.11.17	House	C. Imperiale	140 m ²	2nd

Table 1. Summary of basic data for the discreet properties in Insula I.11. C. = Casa. The information in the column labeled Quartile refers to that house's rank in the quartile system for characterizing residences at Pompeii devised by A. Wallace-Hadrill.



Figure 1. PALHIP 2018 field season team. From left: Sara Eriksson, Susanna Faas-Bush, Aaron Brown, Ryan Reynolds, Ted Peña.

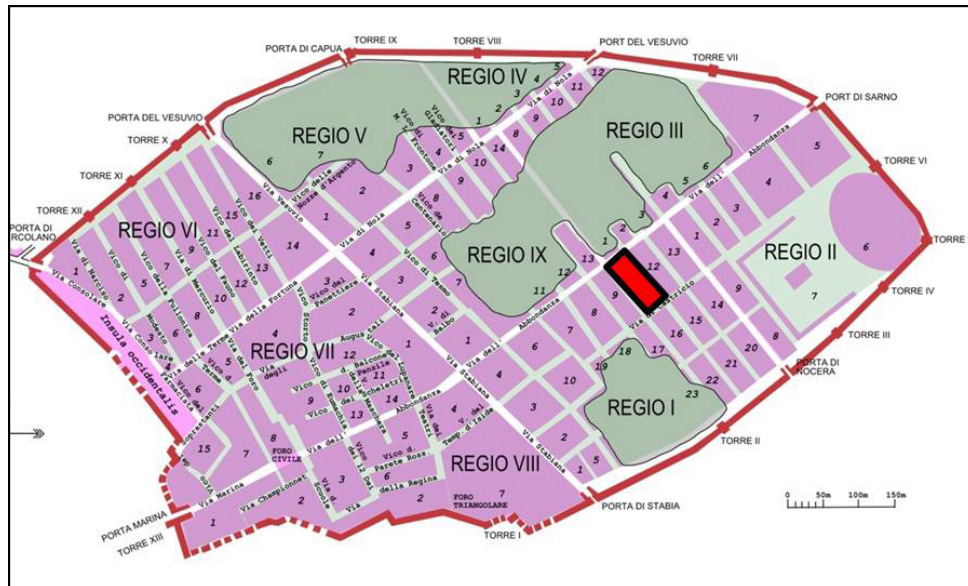


Figure 2. Plan of Pompeii showing location of Regio I Insula 11 (red rectangle).

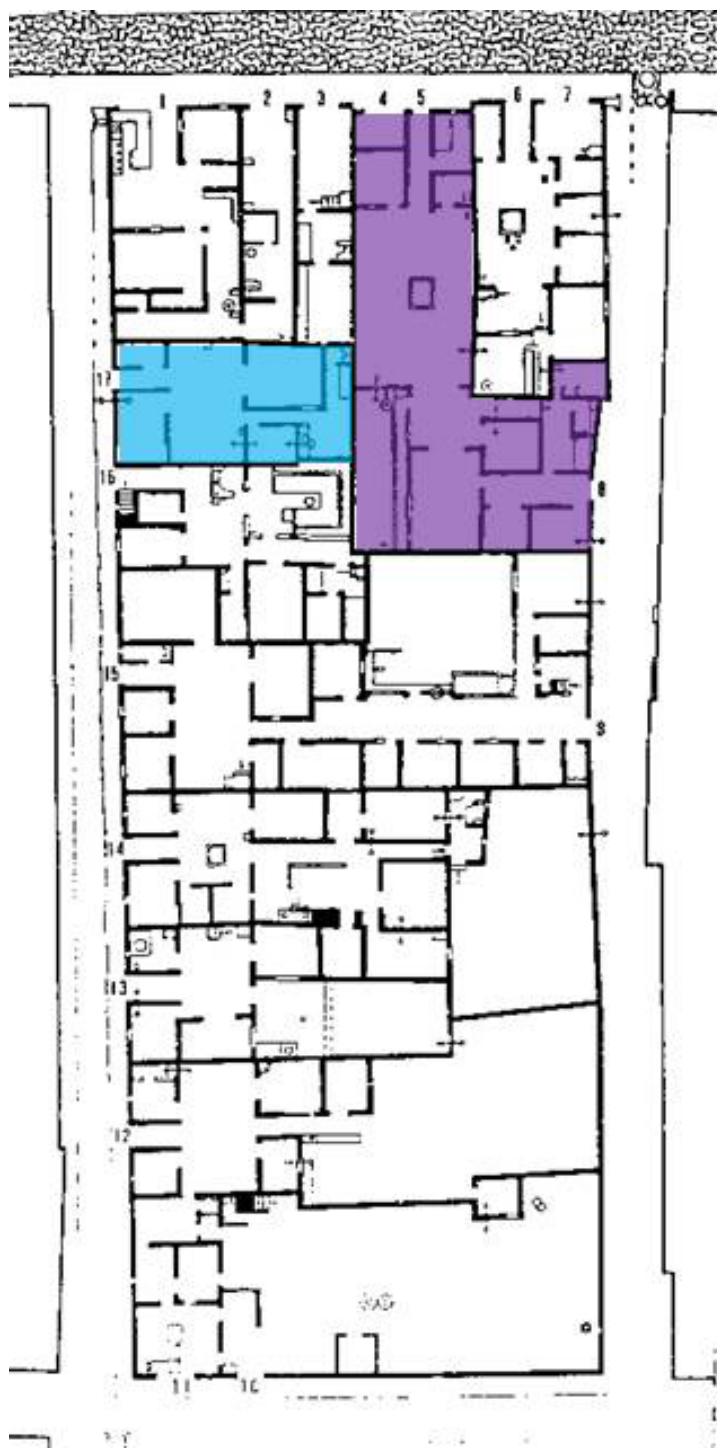


Figure 3. Plan of Regio I Insula 11. Casa di Lucius Habonius Primus (I.11.5.8) in purple; Casa Imperiale (I.11.17) in blue.



Figure 4. Sara Eriksson and Aaron Brown capturing data for 3D model of bronze casserole using Structure Scanner mounted on iPad.

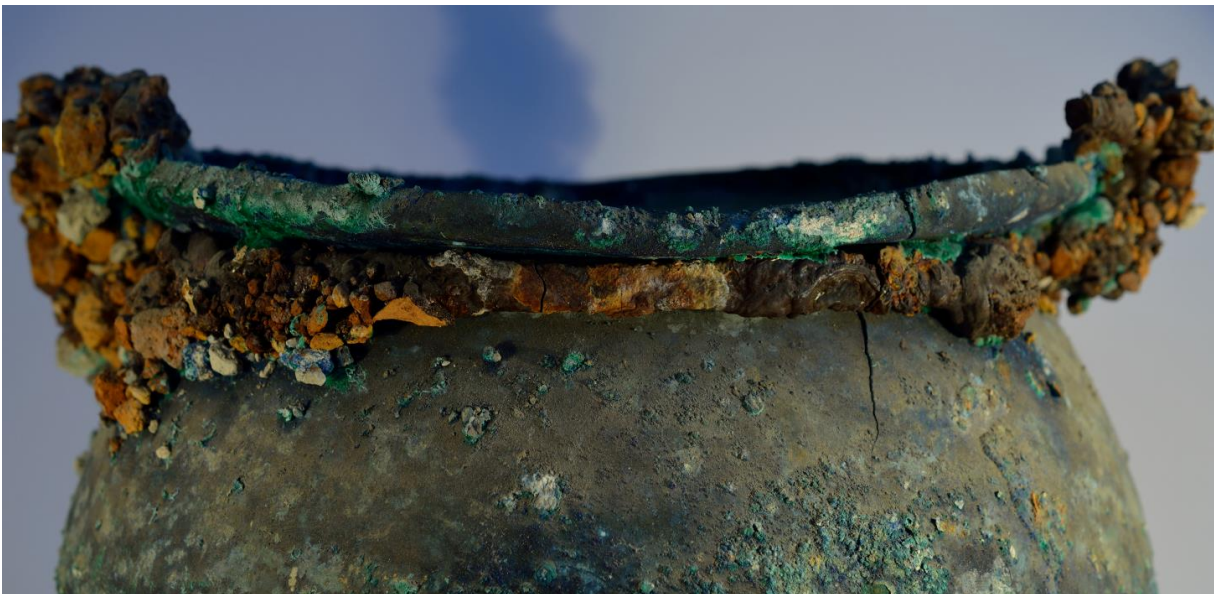


Figure 5. Use alteration: warping of rim of bronze and iron water bucket from the Casa di Lucius Habonius Primus caused by protracted use.

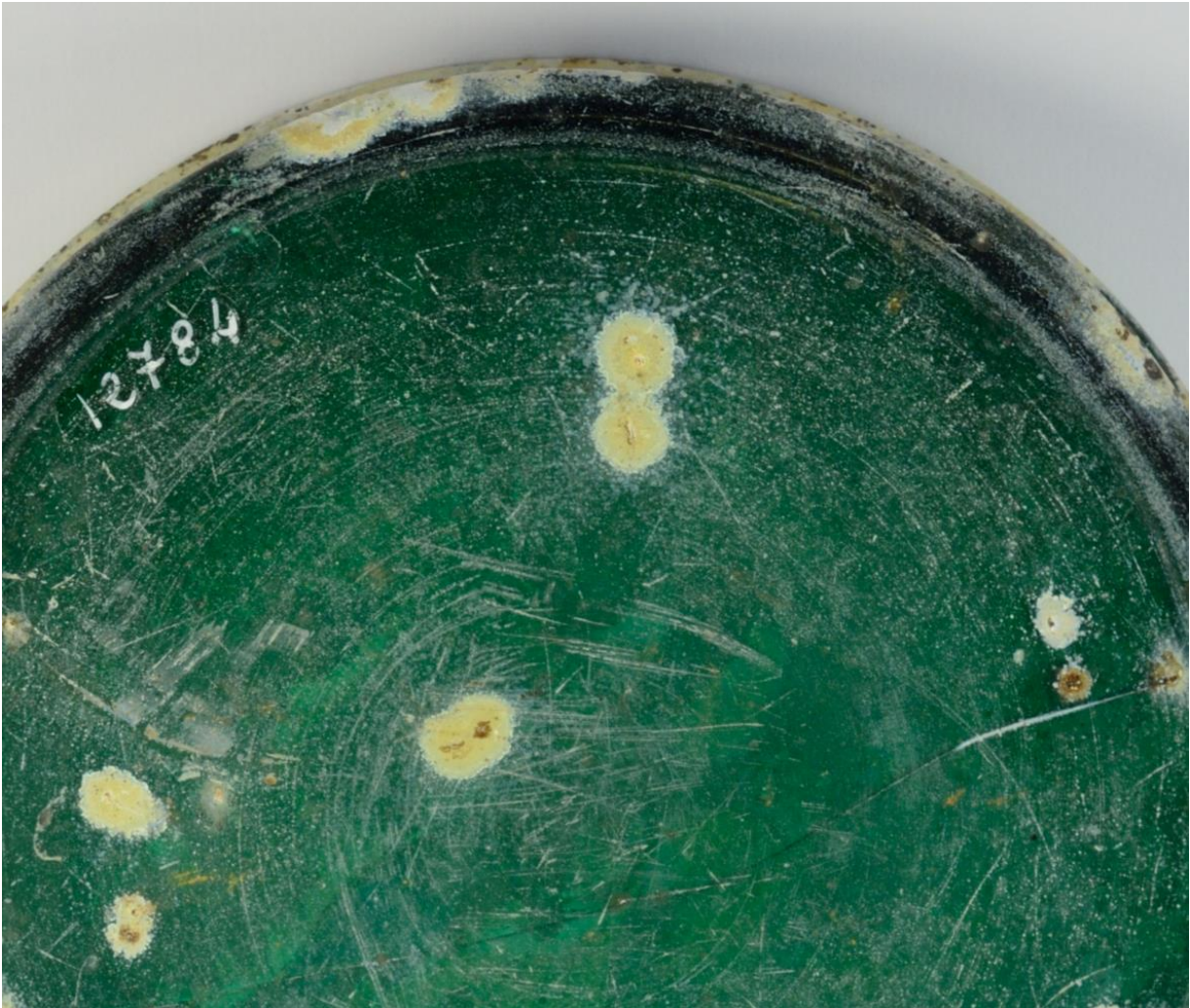


Figure 6. Use alteration: Abrasion on underside of glass plate from the Casa Imperiale.



Figure 7. Use alteration (modification): Glass flask from the Casa Imperiale with rim and upper neck removed by cracking off technique.