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POMPEII ARTIFACT LIFE HISTORY PROJECT: 2019 FIELD SEASON

Stahl Field Report

2019, Archaeological Research Facility, UC Berkeley

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The Stahl Fund provided substantial financial support for the seventh field season of the Pompeii Artifact Life History Project (PALHIP), carried out at Pompeii (Napoli), Italy, between June 30 and July 26, 2019. The PALHIP team consisted of four persons: the author of this report as project director (JTP), and three assistants: Aaron Brown (AB) and Susanna Faas Bush (SFB), both graduate students in the University of California, Berkeley Graduate Program in Classical Archaeology, and Sara Eriksson (SE), an entering graduate student in the University of California, Berkeley Graduate Program in Anthropology. (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.

The 2019 season was the second of the second phase of the project, projected as a series of five study seasons (to be carried out 2018-2022) in which the team will focus on the documentation of the sets of artifacts recovered in the excavation of eight houses of small to medium 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and Amedeo Maiuri during the years 1952-1962, with most of the artifacts recovered in this work remaining unstudied and unpublished.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 laboratory at the Casa di Bacco storage facility at Pompeii (fig. 4), completing the documentation of the artifact assemblage from the so-called Casa Imperiale (I.11.17) (CI), begun in 2018, and then went on to complete the documentation of the artifact assemblages from two additional residences – the Casa/Hospitium of Saturninus (I.11.16) (C/HS) and the Casa del Piano Superiore (I.11.15.9) (CPS) - and to initiate the documentation of the artifact assemblage from a fourth residence – the Casa della Venere in Bikini (I.11.6.7) (CVB). For plans of these residences see Figure 3.

This work involved the application of protocols for the description of artifact morphology, micromorphology, and use alterations developed in the course of earlier seasons, with some of these revised and updated for the 2019 season; 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 revised and updated and migrated from FileMaker Pro 12 to FileMaker Pro 17 for the 2019 season. The database was run on a MacBook Pro with project members creating and updating records through file sharing using their personal MAC laptops.

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 ceramic and glass vessels.

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

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

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

During the course of the season the team completed the documentation of 180 items, as follows:

CI (N = 119): 32 objects in copper alloy (13 vessels/vessel lids, 2 vessel handles, 2 needles, 1 stylus, 1 surgical implement, 3 tweezers, 2 steelyards, 1 seal ring, 1 buckle, 2 fittings, 3 furniture pulls, 1 hinge), 12 objects in copper alloy and iron (1 knife, 11 bells), 2 objects in lead (1 vessel with its lid), 48 objects in faience (all beads), and 25 objects in glass paste (all tokens).

C/HS (N = 19): 10 objects in copper alloy (6 vessels/lids, 2 lamps, 2 fish hooks), 1 object in copper alloy and iron (vessel), 7 objects in glass (all vessels), and 1 object in bone (pin).

CSP (N = 25): 15 objects in copper alloy (6 vessels/lids, 1 lampstand, 1 mirror, 1 needle, 2 rings, 1 bracelet, 1 deadbolt, 1 lock plate, 1 key), 1 object in copper alloy and iron (vessel), 6 objects in ceramic (1 vessel, 5 lamps), 3 objects in glass (2 vessels, 1 lamp).

CVB (N = 17): 8 objects in copper alloy (5 vessels/lids, 1 strigil, 1 strigil ring, 1 statuette base), 2 objects in copper alloy and iron (1 vessel, 1 key), 3 objects in iron (2 strigils, 1 horse bit), 4 objects in ceramic (all vessels).

For photographs of some of these objects see Figures 4-6.

The team has now completed the documentation of substantial sets of materials from two residences – the CLHP and the CI, and we are now positioned to undertake some preliminary analyses that will involve the comparison of these two assemblages with each other and with one from the Villa Regina a Boscoreale, a modest farm villa situated 1.2 km to the WNW of Pompeii, which was documented during the first phase of the project.

For the 2020 season the team plans to continue this work, completing the documentation of the artifact assemblage from CVB, and then, time permitting, moving on to the documentation of the assemblages from two more houses in Insula I.11, the so-called Casa del Cherem (I.11.14) and the unnamed residence to the south of this (I.11.13).

The author would like to thank the following individuals for their generous assistance in the organizing and conduct of the 2019 PALHIP field season: Massimo Osanna, Grete Stefani, Marialaura Iadanza, Domenico Buzziello, and Ulderico Franco.

Address	Use	Name	Ground Floor 1	Ground Floor 2	Quartile
I.11.1.2	<i>caupona</i> & residence	None	199 m ²	190 m ²	3rd
I.11.3	shop & residence	None	64 m ²	65 m ²	2nd
I.11.4	shop	None	10 m ²	10 m ²	1st
I.11.5.8	residence	Casa di L. Habonius Primus	347 m ²	325 m ²	3rd
I.11.6.7	residence	Casa della Venere in Bikini	181 m ²	170 m ²	2nd/3rd
I.11.10.11	<i>Caupona</i> , residence & vineyard	Caupona of Euxinus and Iustus	776 m ²	400 m ²	4th
I.11.12	residence	Casa di Euxinus		340 m ²	3rd
I.11.13	residence	None	180 m ²	170 m ²	2nd/3rd
I.11.14	residence	Casa del Cherem	416 m ²	400 m ²	4th
I.11.15.9	residence	Casa del Piano Superiore	472 m ²	460 m ²	4th
I.11.16	<i>hospitium</i> & residence	Casa di Saturninus	173 m ²	150 m ²	2nd/3rd
I.11.17	residence	Casa Imperiale	136 m ²	140 m ²	2nd

Table 1. Summary of basic data for the properties in Insula I.11. Figures for Ground Floor 1 are from *Pompeii Bibliography and Mapping Project*. Figures for Ground Floor 2 and Quartile are from A. Wallace-Hadrill, *Housing and Society in Pompeii and Herculaneum* (1994), 194 and 81 Table 4.2, respectively.



Figure 1. PALHIP 2019 field season team. From left: Susanna Faas-Bush, Sara Eriksson, Aaron Brown, Ted Peña.

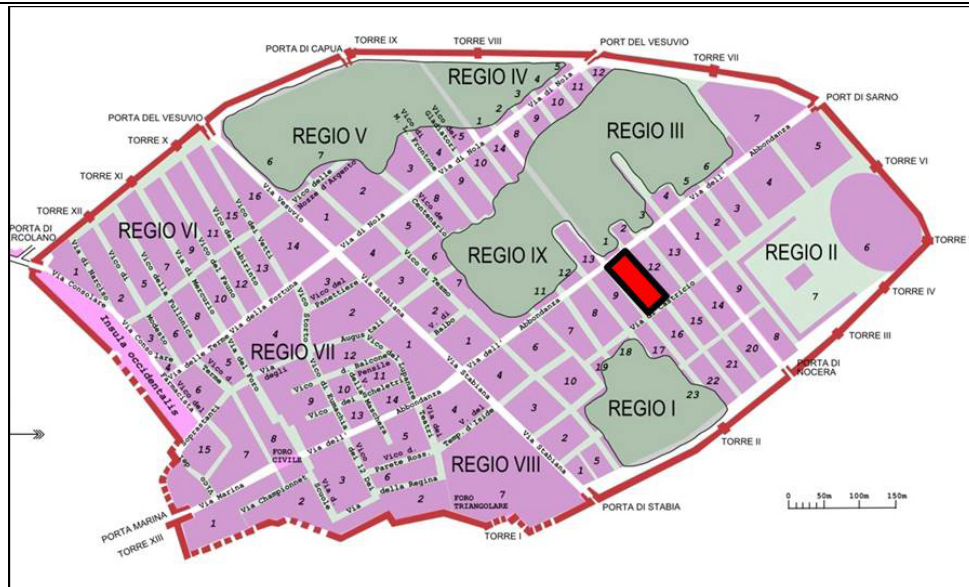


Figure 2. Plan of Pompeii showing location of Regio I Insula 11 (red rectangle).



Figure 3. Plan of Regio I Insula 11. Properties for which artifact documentation was carried out in 2019: Casa Imperiale (CI) (17), Casa/Hospitium di Saturninus (C/HS) (16), Casa del Piano Superiore (CPS) (15.9), Casa della Venere in Bikini (CVB) (6.7).



Figure 4. Sara Eriksson, Aaron Brown, and Susanna Faas-Bush at work documenting artifacts at the Casa di Bacco.



Figure 5. Copper alloy seal ring from the CI bearing the name of Lucius Caelius Ianuarius, a presumed occupant of this residence in 79 CE.



Figure 6. Two iron stigils on copper alloy ring from the CVB.



Figure 7. Mold-blown glass vessel from the CSP.