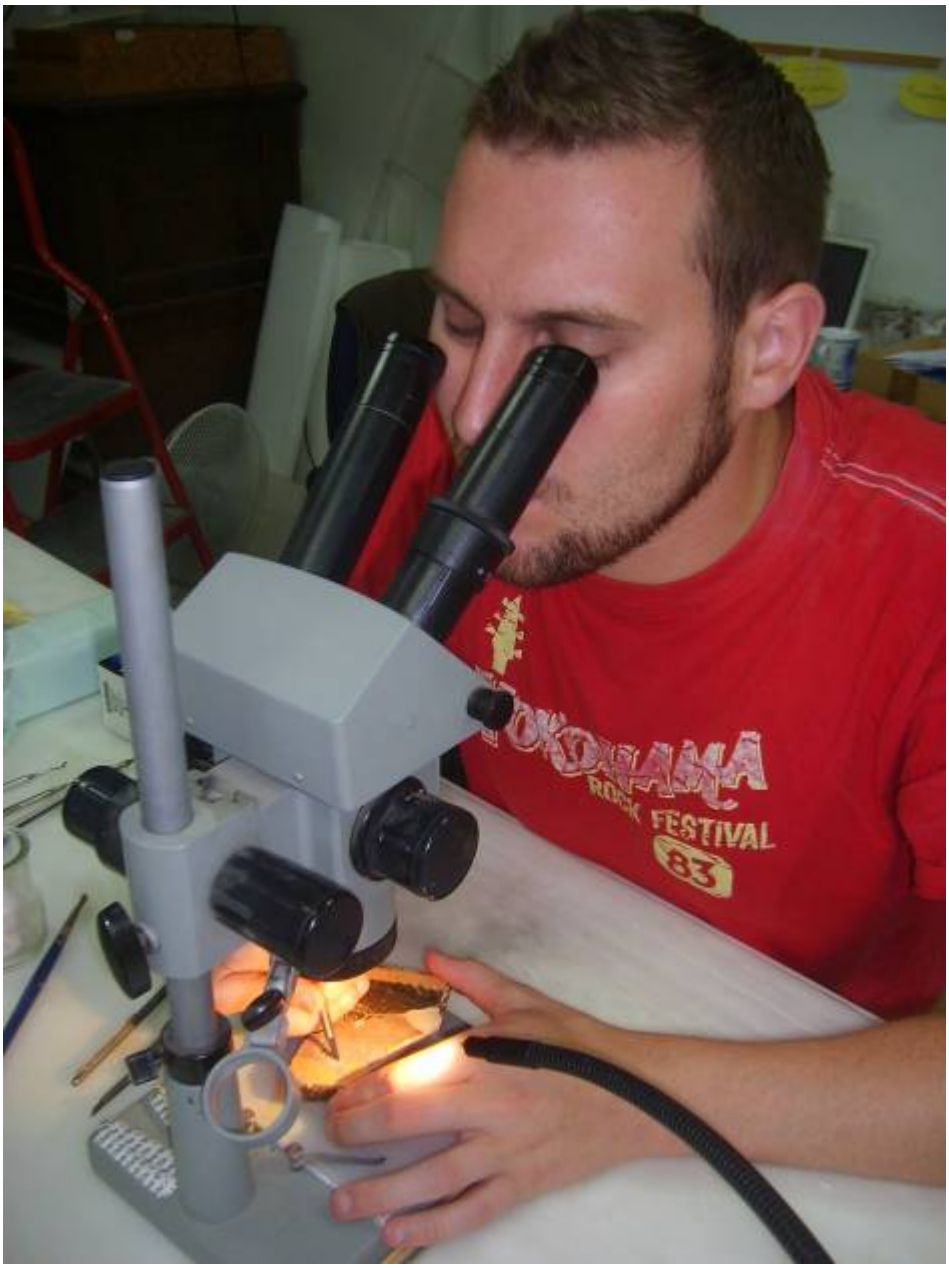
THE ZIBBY GARNETT TRAVELLING FELLOWSHIP

Report by Ciarán Lavelle



Archaeological Conservation

Agora Excavations, Athens, Greece

12 June - August 2010

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1. Introduction

My name is Ciaran Lavelle; I am a 28 year old from Northern Ireland. I am a recent graduate of the 'Conservation of Objects for Museums and Archaeology' Bachelor of Science degree program at Cardiff University in Wales. My goal for my career is find employment in the field of object conservation in a museum or in the private sector and become an accredited conservator.

I completed the three year conservation degree in Cardiff University in two years as a direct entry student, which allowed me to combine first and second year. During my first year at Cardiff I learned about the American School of Classical Studies at Athens conservation internship program through a fellow Greek student. So during my final year I decided I should apply for the internship so as to gain post graduate experience in a world renowned archaeological excavation and was successful with my application for the nine week program. I heard about the Zibby Garnett Travelling Fellowship through a past recipient of the fund whom I worked with and became friends with while working in the Transport Museum in Glasgow. I applied and successfully received £1000 pounds to help and pay for travelling expenses, food, internal travel, accommodation and sightseeing. I had managed to save another £400 in personal savings from the part-time job I worked throughout my education.

The photos in the following page shows an image of the Stoa of Attalos (right), the Stoa of Attalos and the Acropolis (middle). The reason for my participating on this internship was to both fulfil a personal dream of working on an archaeological site in a country whose history, archaeology and mythology inspired my decision to study archaeology as a teenager but to also gain invaluable practical conservation experience in a professional archaeological conservation laboratory. The Internship also gave me

the opportunity to build on the conservation experience I gained during my study and previous internship in Scotland, in a position I gained independently from my university education.

2. The American School of Classical Studies at Athens

The excavations of the Agora are run by the academic institution called the American School of Classical Studies at Athens (ASOCS). The School was founded in 1881 by a consortium of nine American universities in collaboration with leading businessmen. The land the school is built was given over by the Greek government, and was the first American overseas research institution. It remains one of the largest, along with the American Academy in Rome. It is also only one of fourteen foreign institutes located in Athens. As set out by the founders of the School it is a privately funded, non-profit educational institution, operating in Greece as a private cultural institution (ASOCS website). The ASOCS' mission in Greece is to advance our knowledge of Greece in all periods, as well as other areas of the classical world, by training young scholars, sponsoring and promoting archaeological fieldwork, providing resources for scholarly work, and disseminating research (ASOCS website). The ASCSA supports a multidisciplinary approach to Hellenic studies, encompassing the fields of archaeology, anthropology, the archaeological sciences, topography, architecture, epigraphy, numismatics, history, art, language, literature, philosophy, religion, and cultural studies. The School makes its resources available to qualified scholars, promotes the highest standards of research and archaeological fieldwork, and shares the results of its work.

3. The Athenian Agora

'The Agora was the centre of ancient Athens: a large, open square where the citizens could assemble for a wide variety of purposes. On any given day the space might be used as a market, or for an election, a dramatic performance, a religious procession, military drill, or athletic competition. Here administrative, political, judicial, commercial, social, cultural, and religious activities all found a place together in the heart of Athens, and the square was surrounded by the public buildings necessary to run

the Athenian government.' (www.agathe.gr). The photograph below shows a view of the Agora complex from the Acropolis hill.

The site of the Athenian Agora can be located to the northwest of the Acropolis and is bounded on the south by the hill of the Areopagus and on the west by the hill of Colonus Agoraeus. The archaeological site is in the shadow of the world renowned and wonder of the ancient world known as the acropolis. In 1931 the ASOCS began excavations at the Athenian Agora, Athens had become the capital of Greece and the excavations were intended to uncover and examine the political and commercial centre of Ancient Athens. Since the beginning the excavation has rewritten the history of not just Athens but the history of western society.

The ASOCS built a museum, a research centre and a storage facility on the Agora archaeological site 1956 with funding donated by the Rockefeller family. This building is the reconstruction of the Stoa of Attalos. The site of the agora was also landscaped by the school in 1957 and became one of Europe's first archaeological parks under the management of the Greek Ministry of Culture. The Athenian Agora is now one of the most visited sites in Greece. The Stoa of Attalos houses the offices that operate the Agora excavations, including the excavation equipment, the conservation laboratory, the documentation team (including the photography laboratory and technical drawing suite) as well as housing all the archaeological finds excavated from the site since it began in 1931. The same documentation system has also been in use since the excavations began, although it has since been updated and digitalised using specially designed software to suit the operations needs by the in house IT expert Bruce Hartzler.

4. The 2010 Agora Excavations

The excavations this year were carried out during a 2 month period beginning on the 14th of June and ending on the 6th of August. The conservation internship began a week earlier on the 6th of June. The Work was carried out on site by approximately 65 volunteers, whereas there were 4 conservation interns and 1 documentation intern. Like most archaeological excavations the Agora excavations were separated into trenches, each trench separated by letters of the Greek alphabet. The artefacts excavated in these trenches were separated and catalogued individually according to the trench they were excavated. The four trenches and a brief description of the period in Greek history they represent are as follows:

Beta Eta (BH)

This trench was under the supervision of the volunteer PHD classical archaeology student Johanna Hobratschk. The trench has uncovered a portion of the foundations of the Stoa of Poilike. A Hellenistic cistern was excavated with fragments of painted plaster (the colour of the plaster was a pale blue and red), pieces of roof tiles and terracotta sima (a piece of roof ornamentation). Other artefacts uncovered included pottery fragments of such materials as a Megarian bowl, Kantharos (a drinking vessel with two high vertical handles), small bowls, A unguentaria, a small ceramic or glass bottle), pyxides (a round box with a separate lid), and lead and terracotta loom weights. The period these objects are believed to come from is the late 3rd to the early 2nd century BC. The trench included Byzantine building foundations and from this area came an intact terracotta oil lamp and a silver coin of the settlement called Histiaia in Northern Euboia. The photographs below show images of trench Beta Eta on the last day of excavation.

Beta Zeta (BZ)

This trench was under the supervision of the volunteer university lecturer Kevin Daly. The focus of this season's excavation was the excavation and clarification of the walls and foundations of a commercial building from the classical period in Athenian history, the 5th century B.C. A black figure wear pottery ceramic vessel of unusual shape was uncovered which has never been seen before in the history of the excavation which may be an import from the area of Greece known as Euboia, and may have a 6th century B.C date. Important finds from this trench included a well preserved doubled-tanged copper alloy arrowhead and an assortment of broken fragments of pottery which have been incised with curses, these are called ostraka. One of these ostraka has a curse for a man called Xanthippos, Son of Arriphon who was exiled in 483/3 B.C. Xanthippos was also the father of the Great Athenian leader during Athens, Perikles. The photographs below show images of trench Beta Zeta on the last day of excavation.

Beta Theta (BΘ)

This trench was under the supervision of the volunteer post-PHD classical archaeologist Mike Laughy. In one section of a trench a 15th/16th century pit full of animal bones, including horse, cows, sheep, goats, pigs and rabbits was excavated. A great number of Frankish coins were uncovered in this trench which date to 13th century, 1207 AD was the date the Franks took Athens. A number of Byzantine walls have been excavated, within this layer a number of pots of different sizes and shapes were also uncovered. Also in this layer a large fragment of a cloaked figure holding a shield was uncovered. The photographs below show an image of trench Beta Theta on the last day of excavation and the large marble statue fragment discovered in the Byzantine layer.

Delta (Δ)

This trench was under the supervision of the volunteer classical archaeologist Laura Gawlinski. This trench is in an area which has been previously excavated in the 1930's. The trench is made up of structures which functioned as civic, commercial and/or domestic. The trench is in an area which is close to main Agora square but there was very little evidence of structures during the history of Athens. This also means the there was very few artefacts found on site. There were a few fragments of pottery, evidence of terracotta drainage pipes and some early Athenian coinage.

5. The Agora Conservation Team & Conservation Laboratory

The Conservation team

The conservation team at the Agora during the 2010 summer excavation season was mad up of 6 individuals, they are as follows:

Amandina Anastassaides

Amandina is a Canadian with a Greek father. She is currently the head of the conservation department at the Agora excavation. She has been an employee at the sight for the past 10 years and has helped to establish the conservation department as an important and intricate part of the excavation team. She has previous archaeological conservation experience on sites in Turkey and throughout Greece.

Karen Louven

Karen is a Danish archaeologist turned conservator. She has worked for the Agora for the past 6 years. She was acting head of the conservation during the summer of 2009 excavation season when Amandina was on leave. Karen's practical experience includes working with the leather and wood conservation expert Helen Ganiaris in the Museum of London.

LeeAnn Barnes Gordon

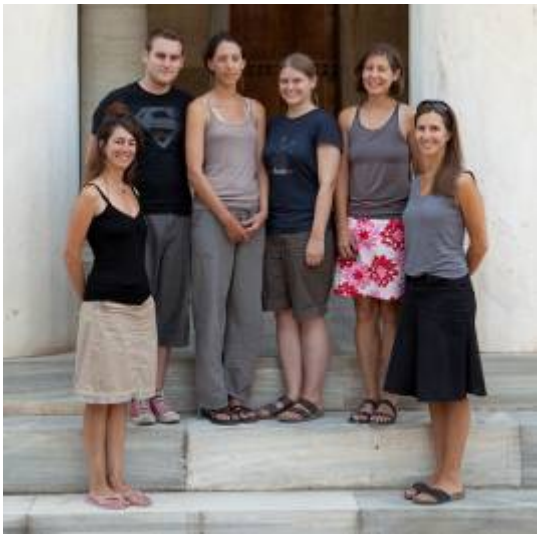
LeeAnn completed a bachelor of arts at the University of Minnesota in Anthropology with a minor in Classical and Near Eastern Archaeology. She is now entering her third and final year as a graduate fellow in Objects Conservation at the Winterthur/University of Delaware Program in Art Conservation (WUDPAC). Next fall she will begin an 11-month internship at the Kelsey Museum of Archaeology at the University of Michigan.

Kate Sullivan

Kate Sullivan is from Plainfield, Ontario Canada. She completed an undergraduate degree in Classical Archaeology at Wilfred Laurier University in Waterloo Ontario. She is about to enter her second and final year of the Master of Art Conservation program at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario.

Elizabeth Murphy

Originally from New York City, Elizabeth now lives in Buffalo, NY where she has just completed her first year of the Art Conservation masters degree program at Buffalo State College. Having previously worked in library and museum conservation labs, this is her first experience on an archaeological excavation. She has a degree from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst in art history and classics and also from Lehman College of the City University of New York in printmaking.

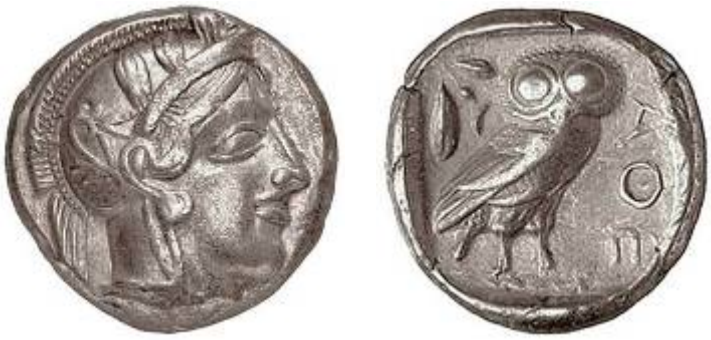


Picture 10: Left to right – Amandina, Me, LeeAnn, Kate, Elizabeth & Karen.

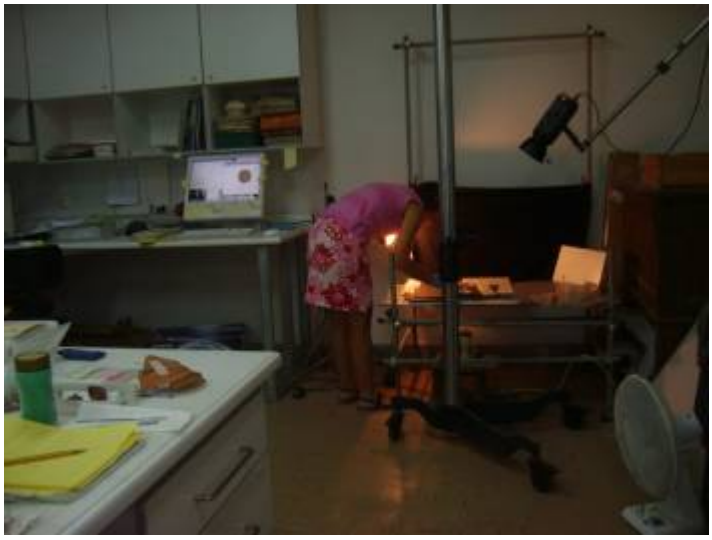
The Agora Conservation Laboratory

The Agora conservation lab is as I have mentioned before on the top floor of the Stoa of Attalos reconstruction found within the heart of the tourist destination that is the Agora archaeological site. The lab is adjacent to the aforementioned documentation and photographic offices that run the Agora excavation all year round, not just during the excavation period, which takes place between June, July and August. The lab is limited by both funding and space so it can only carry out a limited number of treatments on the artefacts. For example the conservators in the lab can only carry out manual mechanical treatments, chemical treatments and techniques are not possible. The reasons for this include the price of the chemicals, the price of their disposal and the lack of the necessary equipment to carry out such treatments as well as the health and safety risks that are involved. Although there is one major exception to this rule, the chemical cleaning of the Silver Athenian coin hoard excavated during the summer excavation period in 2005. The importance of the find and the potential for amount of information that can be learned from the coins, such as their construction and whether the same dye was used to create all the coins, was so great that mechanical treatment was deemed an inappropriate method for the removal of the corrosion products. A safe and cost effective chemical cleaning method was adopted instead. This method was used this season for the cleaning of a single silver coin excavated this season in trench Beta Eta.

The photographs below are examples of a silver coin from the hoard excavated in 2005.



The restraints placed on the potential of the conservation lab in the agora also limits the analytical and examinational techniques that can be under taken in the lab. So visual examination in the form of the naked eye, photography and microscopy are the main forms of examination used. My time at the agora was spent visually examining, photographing and mechanically cleaning the artefacts that were chosen to be catalogued. Those artefacts not chosen to be catalogued were placed in long term storage tins with similar materials from the same archaeological context. The photographs below are images of the lab and the lab photography station



We also did what was called investigative cleaning. This was the partial cleaning of artefacts that were sent up form the field by the trench supervisors, these artefacts may be potentially important artefacts but their true shape, material and importance or irrelevance may be obscured by corrosion or burial material such as soil. Investigative

cleaning has helped to protect fragile material from being damaged on site through mishandling as well as allowing the trench supervisors to separate important artefacts from site debris and only cataloguing the important artefacts, which was a common problem in the past.

6. My Work on the Conservation Team

The artefacts I conserved were catalogued according to the trench they were excavated from, so I will go give a brief explanation of the more interesting artefacts I conserved during my internship. When all the conservation interns' start at the Agora they are given the laboratory procedure book which gives details on the conservation treatments for each material treated in the lab. So when we were preparing to treat an artefact we referred to the procedure book for the guidelines we were to follow when treating the artefact. I was asked by the head conservator Amandina to write a draft chapter on the deterioration and conservation of bone, antler and ivory, due to my experience and prior research into bone conservation, which will be edited and put in the laboratory procedure book.

The conservation of most metal artefacts such as the copper coins all followed similar procedural guidelines. For all objects we started off with a full visual examination of the artefact with our eyes and then through microscope. We document every aspect of the treatment, first with a condition report, a set of photographs before conservation, a treatment report to explain what actions were used on the artefact, post treatment recommendations, to suggest how the artefact should be handled, stored, etc and a set of photographs of the artefact after the treatment process.

<u>Beta Eta (BH)</u>

In this trench I conserved a number of metal objects; this included a number of copper alloy coins, a lead token and a number of lead loom weights. Copper alloy coins were the most common archaeological artefact excavated on the site with nearly one hundred excavated each year. The process used for treating coins is as follows: a stiff and/or a soft bristled brush was used to remove the soil layer from the excavation environment (depending on the compact nature of the soil on the surface) and cotton

swabs lightly moistened in a solvent, such as acetone or Industrial Methylated Spirits in a 50%/50% de-ionised water mix (IMS), rolled gently over the surface. A scalpel was used to remove any further compact soil that could not be removed using brushes. A scalpel was used to also reduce the corrosion products that have developed on the coins surface while in the ground. This was done so as to reveal any important details that remain on the coins surface. Once the conservation of a metal object has been completed it was degreased in acetone so as to remove any contaminated material from the surface. This process of carefully removing the corrosion to reveal the details would take a long time depending on the condition of the coin, so I may have finished one coin in an hour whereas the next coin could take me 5 hours to conserve.

I conserved a lead token with the image of a helmeted man facing right. After the removal of the surface soil the artefact was clarified enough to see the features. Lead was treated with extra safety precautions due to the danger of lead poisoning, this included wearing gloves (which was standard when working on metal) and only working on a damp surface like a wet cloth to prevent lead dust from being inhaled.

The site contained a number of lead loom weights, of which I conserved a number of them. His loom weight was treated the same way as the lead token.

Ceramic is one of the most common materials found on the archaeological site with ceramic sherds throughout the whole site. The majority of the sherds were what was called lotting, which meant that they were not catalogued but placed in storage containers according to their excavation context number (the soil layer the sherds came from on the site, and in the case of the agora the individual contexts were called ‘buckets’).

The archaeologists uncovered an intact 5th to 6th AD terracotta oil lamp; it was a Byzantine lamp with Christian imagery in the form of a fish motif. The surface of the ceramic were cleaned in a similar fashion to most of the objects treated in the lab in that a stiff and/or a soft bristled brush was used to remove the soil layer from the excavation environment and cotton swabs lightly moistened in a solvent, such as acetone or Industrial Methylated Spirits in a 50%/50% de-ionised water mix (IMS), rolled gently over the surface. In the case of this ceramic a wooden skewer was used to remove any encrusted soil along the decorative incisions on the surface. The inside of the lamp was

also cleaned out using running water as the artefact was deemed stable enough to undergo such treatment.

The ceramic vessel known as a Kantharos, a two handled drinking vessel which the two handles missing, was also excavated. The two images on the left are of the Kantharos before conservation and the one on the right is it after conservation. The artefact was discovered along with 5 other ceramic artefacts such as the ceramic lid (in the 2 pictures below) excavated from the cistern. These ceramic vessels were washed by a team of archaeologists that were given the task of cleaning all the pieces of pottery found on site so they were cleaned when they arrived in the lab. I photographed the artefact and wrote a condition report before I re-adhered the broken pieces together. The procedure for this in the lab was as follows, the edges were cleaned thoroughly before the break edges were primed using 5% mix Paraloid B72 in acetone. Once the primer dries the fragments were re-adhered using a 50% mix of Paraloid B72 and acetone. The two images below are of the Kantharos and a ceramic lid placed safely in a bucket of beans after it was adhered so it wouldn't move while the adhesive dried and a picture of me adhering the two fragments together.

Beta Zeta (BZ)

This trench was excavating material from the oldest periods on the site and therefore it had some of the more interesting artefacts from this season's excavation. One of the more interesting metal artefacts was a copper alloy arrowhead; it is the first of my favourite stand out finds from the excavation. The arrowhead was treated in the same way as coins were treated; the soil was removed with brushes, solvents and a scalpel. After removing all the soil and the top layer of corrosion it was noticed that there incisions on the metal beneath. These may have been markings from the

manufacture of the arrowhead or the sharpening of the edges of the weapon. The information that could be learned by removing more corrosion was the reason I continued, I therefore used a scalpel with the help of a microscope remove the upper corrosion layers to the green (carbonate) and red (oxide) copper corrosion layers above the copper alloy surface.

A double-sided mould with a decorative pattern on both sides was conserved by gentle mechanical cleaning with cotton swabs, water and a soft bristled brush. This artefact was believed to be rare so a mould was taken of both sides (the photograph on the above). A more common object excavated was a portion of a terracotta wheel, believed to have been part of a to a terracotta toy.

The second of my three favourite standout and exciting finds the season was of the rim fragment of a large Black Figure Ware vessel. This was one of the finest examples of this pottery type found this season, the bull in the centre was chosen as the symbol of this seasons excavation and was used for the 2010 excavation t-shirt and satchel.

The photograph below is a during conservation image of the Red Figure Ware vessel handle, this is the third of my three favourite standout finds of the season. The surface of the fragment had a solid encrusted deposit obscuring the surface. This was carefully removed without damaging the surface by using a solvent to soften the deposit while gently scraping with a scalpel with the help of the high magnification of a microscope.

One of the most exciting finds in this trench was the discovery of inscribed sherds of pottery known as Ostraka that were found in a hoard, the number found this year was over 3 dozen. These ostraka were a way to curse someone who may have slighted you in the past. I conserved a number of these ostraka, so as to remove any soil or encrustations that may have obscured the inscriptions on the sherds. The photographs below are of the three example ostraka after conservation. The ostraka on the right is significant as it was found to contain the name of Xanthippos, Son of Arriphon, father of Perikles which would put the dating of this piece to around 483 B.C

An interesting find in this trench was that of a Roman Bone Pin, this was found in two different pieces and was only after initial conservation cleaning of both pieces was it discovered that were two pieces of the same artefact. The bone was cleaned with a cotton swabs and a solvent mix of 50% IMS to 50% of de-ionised water so as to prevent the bone from getting too wet when cleaning. The incised lines on the head of the pin were discovered during cleaning and examination to have residual traces of a red pigment. The two pieces of bone were re-adhered using a solution of 50% of B72 in acetone.

Beta Theta (BΘ)

This site contained a Lead Musket Ball believed to be from either the 18th or 19th centuries. After the removal of all the loose soil and corrosion small lead balls could be seen where the surface of the ball is broken, similar to a modern day shotgun shell.

Coins were common on this site and coins from the Frankish controlled era in Athens were common in this trench. On one side of the coin there is the image of cross and lettering visible, whereas on the opposite side there is a central geometric design and lettering visible. This coin was dated to first half of 13th century; it is a Frankish petty currency and dates to when the Franks captured Athens during the crusades in that period.

The photograph above is a during conservation picture of a copper alloy coin. The coin has a wheel shaped feature on one side, whereas no features are visible on the opposite side and is dated to the later 11th century, between 1078-85 A.D.

Fragments of worked/decorated bone were common and I was able to conserve a number of them during the season. The soil in the decorative holes on the surface was removed carefully using an acupuncture needle and a soft bristled brush with long bristles. The bone artefacts I have worked on in this site have all been in good condition and stable with highly polished surfaces.

An interesting find I conserved was a fragment of an obsidian blade. Obsidian was cleaned using cotton swabs, soft and stiff bristled brushes and a solvent mix of 50% ethanol and 50% de-ionised water. On the top of the blade I noticed a triangular incision on the surface similar to the Greek alphabet letter Delta; this may or may not have been intentional.

Fragments of Turkish pipe are a common feature from the archaeological layers from the Turkish period in Athenian history. One of the pipes I conserved was handmade from terracotta and fingerprints were visible on the side after conservation cleaning.

An interesting find in the last few weeks of the season was that of 5 vessels found in the same context, one of which I conserved. The fabric of this vessel was very fragile and there was a crack along the surface and running the whole length from one handle, along the bottom and up to the other handle. So the pot was cleaned gently using a damp sponge and then left to dry overnight.

The one remaining handle came off during excavation in 2 pieces and was re-adhered to the pot using a 30% w/v Paraloid B72 in acetone solution (see the above photo). The warped crack by the remaining handle was gap-filled with a solution of 30% w/v Paraloid B72 in acetone which was bulked with glass micro-balloons. The gap fill was mixed with pigment to hide its appearance.

7. On-site Conservation

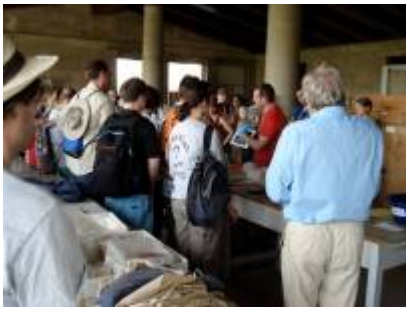
During the first week a flat iron artefact entrenched between 2 walls that the trench supervisor deemed important enough to ask for the conservation staff to help to excavate carefully so it could be kept intact. The soil around the artefact was carefully removed to reveal the complete upper surface (see the photo on the left below). It was then decided that one side of the artefact was weaker that the other so extra precautions were needed to prevent any damage when moving so plaster bandages were placed on the surface to provide support (see the photo in the middle below). It was then possible to move the artefact safely onto a support so it could be taken to the lab for further investigation.

While onsite we also checked the condition of a large vessel stored on the archaeological site, called a pitos. The pitos had a large crack along one side and required support so as to prevent further damage. A bandage was wrapped around the

surface and this will help prevent the crack from spreading (see the photograph on the right).

8. Conservation Teaching & Workshops

The conservation interns started a week before the excavation volunteers arrived, so during the first day the archaeologists were given tours around the site and the excavation offices in the Stoa of Attalos, including the conservation laboratory. All the conservation interns were charged with the task of teaching the archaeologists on their first day a few of the fundamental principles of conservation, artefact handling, typical types of deterioration found on artefacts on the site and conservation in the field. The photographs below show me teaching the principles of archaeological conservation, such as block lifting of multiple artefacts and secure lifting of fragile vessels.



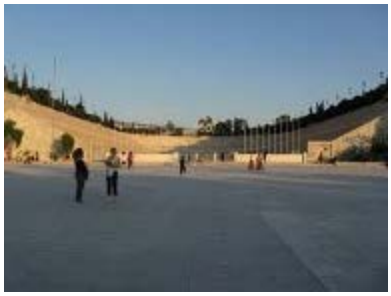
The head of the conservation department decided to have the conservation interns organise and present a series of 4 workshops on conservation for the any of the archaeological volunteers interested in learning more about conservation. The four workshops were on such topics as material deterioration, examination and analysis, conservation treatment and storage. As well as teaching the archaeological excavators from the Agora excavation we also give tours and a brief introduction to conservation to archaeology students who were attending the American School of classical studies summer programs. The photographs below show my fellow interns and I teach the archaeological excavators (left) and the summer school tours of the laboratory which we set up in order to teach the principles of conservation (middle and right).



9. Sightseeing in Greece

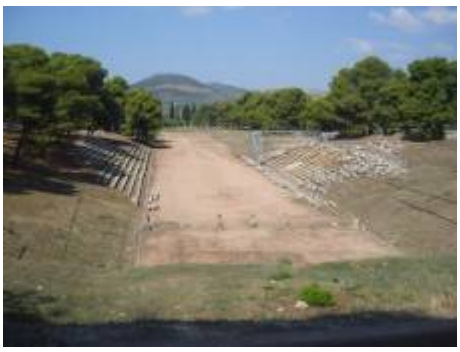
During my time in Athens I got the chance to visit the major museums in the city, especially the newly opened Acropolis Museum as well as the major archaeological sites such as the Acropolis (see the photograph below on the left), the Temple of Zeus (see the photograph below in the middle) and the Panathenic stadium.



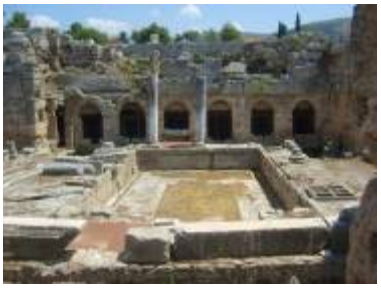
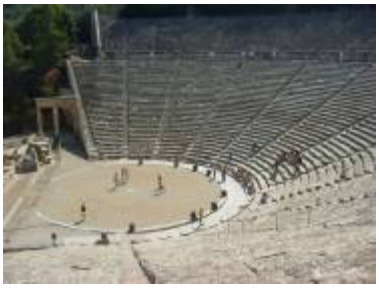


The American School organised for all the summer excavation staff to receive a document from the Greek government which will allow the bearer to gain free access to all the museums and archaeological sites in Greece. This was used to great effect throughout my visit. On the weekend of the 4th of July I and 3 of my fellow interns rented a car and drove to the Argolid in the Peloponnese. We travelled on Friday the 2nd from work to the town of Naupflio, the capital of Greece in the years after Greece gained independence. During our stay we travelled to the major sites in the area, none bigger than the Clytemnestra tomb (see the photograph below on the left) and his citadel of Mycenae and the infamous Lions gate (see the photograph below in the middle).





During the summer we visited the ancient hill top Mycenaean citadel of Pylos (photo below on the left), the ancient city of Corinth (photo below in the middle) and the city complex and theatre at Epidavros (see the photos on the right above and below).

One day trip took with 9 fellow staff members was the popular beach destination for Athenians and it is also the home of the great Temple of Poseidon, Cape Sunion, the temple is stunning in its position as it sits on the edge of a cliff over looking the Mediterranean (see the photograph below on the left). The second road trip I participated in was to see the medieval Christian monasteries of Meteroa. I along with 3 work mates rented a car to make the 5 hour journey to Northern Greece to the 6 monasteries open to the public, which are built on top of breathtaking sandstone cliffs that dominate the region (see the 2 photographs below in the middle). In the first few weekends in Athens myself and 2 fellow interns travelled by boat to the Island of Aegina, which is about an hour from Athens. On the eastern side of the island is the beautiful Temple of Aphaia, which dates to 500 B.C and over looks the sea (see the photograph below on the right).




10. Life in Greece

When planning my Greece internship I had my accommodation booked at the Irish Institute of Classical Studies in Athens. These plans fell through but the excavation director kindly offered to place me in school organised flats with 3 other volunteers. I became firm friends with my new flatmates (see photograph below on the right for my flatmates left to right, Chris Young, James Artz, James Wilson and myself dressed in the 2010 excavation t-shirt). The American school of classical studies paid 125 euro a week to all the volunteer staff, this sum went back to the director to pay for my accommodation. Within Athens there is the culture of large produce markets called a Laiki. This is where I did half of my weekly shopping, buying all my fruit and vegetables on the Saturday Laiki (see photographs left and middle left). The other half of my shopping was done in the local Greek supermarket known as Alpha Beta and in the German supermarket chain Lidl. I also went out to local taverna, which are Greek restaurants with fellow excavation staff (see photograph middle right).




There was a number of excavation activities organised each week, including day trips and weekend trips organised by the excavators for themselves. The director of the excavation, John Camp III, invited all staff to his house every Thursday for pizza and beer night which he kindly provided (see the photograph on the right). On there was a number of BBQ's organised such as the 4th of July BBQ (see the photograph below on

the right) and the annual Pig Roast (see the photograph below on the right).



11. Conclusion

My time at the Agora excavations was a great experience and one I fully enjoyed. I am now a qualified conservator and currently looking for work in the conservation field, but the experienced I gained and the friendships I made during my internship was great help to meet like minded volunteers from the American and Canadian conservation fields. This internship would not have been possible if it was not for the help of the Zibby Garnett Travelling Fellowship, I am greatly indebted for helping me to realise this opportunity. I would like to thank the Trustees for enabling this experience to take place. I hope that I can do all I can in the future to promote the Zibby Garnett Travelling Fellowship and look forward to a continued association with the Fellowship, the Trustees and all those who benefit from the fellowship.