

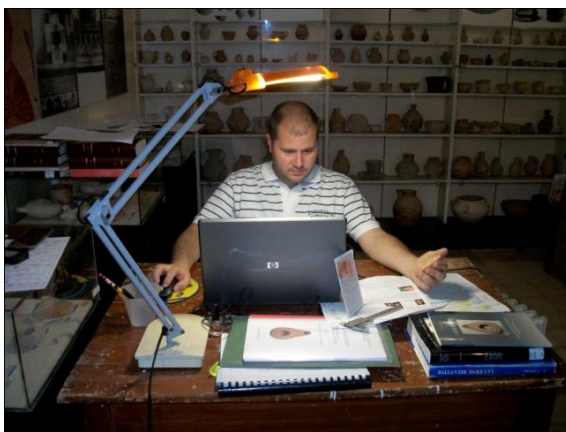
Bulletin of the Archaeological Museum of the "Studium Biblicum Franciscanum"

April 2012. By Davide Bianchi.



- Cataloguing archaeological materials

This task is part of a wider project by ATS pro Terra Sancta called "[Telling the Story of the Holy Land](#)" and is being carried out by two Italian archaeologists under the supervision of the museum's director and professor of early Christian archaeology at the Studium Biblicum Franciscanum, father Eugenio Alliata O.F.M. The ultimate aim is to establish a modern museum centre for the preservation and development of Christian witness in the Holy Land.



Davide Bianchi and Giuseppe Schiavariello, who came to Jerusalem for their national service abroad, are working together on the study of Palestinian ceramics and Byzantine oil lamps in father Stanislao Loffreda O.F.M.'s collection. Their collaboration continues the work that began around three years ago and has been sustained by the cooperation of numerous volunteers; thanks to their help the cataloguing phase is nearing completion and only the finds in the last two rooms remain.

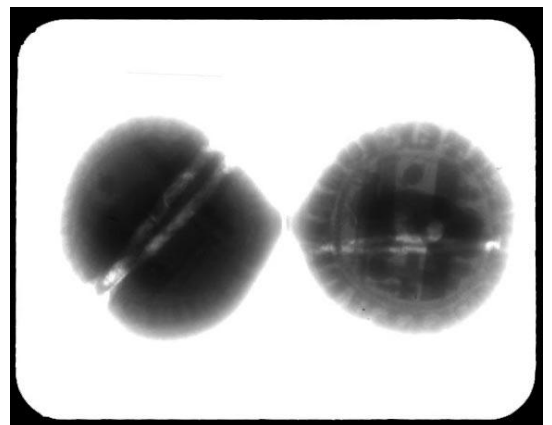
- The museum's scientific projects

In addition to cataloguing archaeological finds, the young scholars are closely examining certain classes of materials and specific objects with a view to their future publication.

Some finds that are particularly interesting, mainly because they are closely tied to the history of and devotion to holy places, are the clay and metal ampullae called "Eulogies". These were small portable reliquaries in which pilgrims, after having visited the main Christian sites, would place oils taken from the lamps at the shrines.

David's objective will be to examine the iconographic scenes depicted on the eulogies conserved in the SBF museum by comparing them with other collections and to investigate their possible production centres, especially in light of the [recent donation](#) of a mould for producing these objects.

Some seals from medieval times, of important social and artistic value, have recently been subjected to scrupulous physical examination (using X-rays and neutron activation analysis) to verify their authenticity. The results have provided interesting information about the technical production of these materials. The presence of one or two hollow ducts inside the seal is proof that the object was created and used in ancient times. The strings for



sealing and legitimising a document were inserted into these ducts.

One example is provided by the outcome of the analysis of a seal attributed to Pierre d'Aubusson (Le Monteil, 1423 - Rhodes, 3 July 1503), Grand Master of the Order of the Hospitallers. The image shows with certainty the presence of these ducts and therefore confirms the authenticity of the object.