

The Kyrenia Ship Project
Kyrenia Ship Collection:
Introductory Conservation Report
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General Introduction

The Kyrenia Ship and the objects found associated with it are regarded as one of the foremost archaeological shipwreck finds in the world. Both the reassembled Hull and the plethora of ceramics, amphorae, copper-alloy finds, lead objects and organics have and still do provide archaeologists, researchers, scholars, museum professionals and the public with a wealth of information pertaining to Hellenistic-era life and trading in Cyprus and the Eastern Mediterranean. Additionally, this Collection holds immeasurable importance, pride and value to those not just residing in Cyprus, but all over the world. That the Collection is at serious risk of damage and is actively deteriorating is sincerely concerning. With the lack of preventive and remedial care and the elevated risk of damage due to the lack of climate control, if action is not taken, precious information will be lost and the Collection will suffer as a result. Future generations may never understand or be able to enjoy all that this wonderful archaeological find has to offer. In August, with the gracious support of the Honor Frost Foundation, Cassy Cutulle—an archaeological conservator trained at University College London—joined the Kyrenia Ship Project team to aid in the preservation of the Collection.

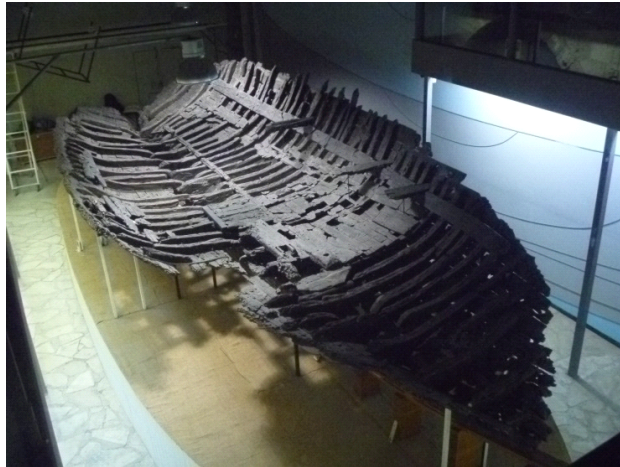


Fig. 1: The reassembled Hull of the Kyrenia Ship. The Hull was cleaned in September 2015.



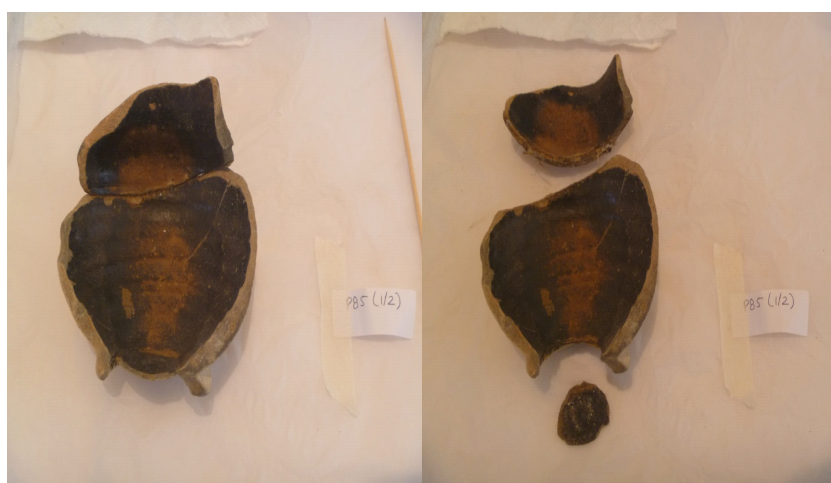
Fig. 2: Previously reconstructed and restored ceramics. These ceramics were last treated approximately 40 years ago and are currently degrading.. The ceramics are in need of retreatment to ensure future stability.

Conservation Tasks Completed, 2015

Throughout August to November, Cassy carried out essential conservation duties with the Kyrenia Ship Collection. In this initial phase, Cassy was involved in conducting comprehensive condition

assessments for the ceramic and metal finds, planning and developing long-term storage and preventive care for the Collection, procuring supplies for conservation and starting active treatment of the ceramic finds. The tasks carried out by Cassy in this first phase of the Project have proved indispensable, imparting a wealth of detailed information about the current issues afflicting the Collection.

After gaining access to a Conservation Laboratory located in Nicosia, conservation treatment of the first group of ceramics (33) was started. First, the ceramics were deconstructed and the previously restorations were removed as the adhesive and filling materials are aged and failing and present risk of damage to the object. Deconstruction is typically done through the placement of the ceramic object **into** a sealed container in which a small jar filled with cotton wool and a solvent is placed. The evaporation of the solvent—usually either acetone or deionized water—aided in solubilizing the adhesive that the ceramic was previously reconstructed with. The restorations were removed manually with distilled water and metal/wooden tools.



Figs. 3-4: Ceramic P85 before (left image) and after (right image) deconstruction.



Figs. 5-6: Ceramic P109 during (left image) and after (right image) deconstruction.

Projected Timeline for Conservation Activities, 2016

Below is a tentative work plan which organizes the conservation tasks to do in 2016 by a monthly timeline. The tasks are categorized into those that will take place at the Conservation Laboratory in Nicosia and those that will be completed at the Kyrenia Castle. This work plan was drafted up by Cassy and an associate—Veronica Ford. Due to the large number of tasks and the limited time frame and budget, the Kyrenia Ship Project Team decided to hire Veronica as an assistant conservator to aid Cassy in these conservation activities. Veronica is also a graduate of University London's graduate programs in conservation and has a broad range of skills in preventive and remedial

conservation and also specialized knowledge in ceramic desalination, reconstruction, restoration and the conservation of metallic objects. These skills will prove immensely useful to the Project and Veronica's presence will greatly aid with the completion of tasks according to the timeline below. This timeline is subject to change depending on unforeseen variables which may arise. It will possibly extend into 2017.

Conservation Laboratory Activities

- January 2016
 - Preparing for desalination of first batch of ceramics (33 in total).
- February 2016
 - Desalination of first batch of ceramics.
 - Start of ceramic reconstruction.
- March 2016
 - Transport of second batch of ceramics from Kyrenia Castle to Conservation Laboratory (31 in total).
 - Desalination of second batch of ceramics.
- April 2016
 - Work at Kyrenia Castle
 - Collaboration for restoration of ceramics. Meet with Project Team, stakeholders, etc.
- July-October 2016
 - Ceramic reconstruction and restoration.

Kyrenia Castle Conservation Activities

- January-February 2016
 - Purchase metal shelving for Object Storeroom.
- April 2016
 - Move lead objects to metal shelves.
 - Creating new housing for metal objects.
 - Creating new housing for wood in Object Storeroom.
- May-June 2016
 - Re-pack the ceramics, metals and place in the metal shelves.
 - Clean up the Object Storeroom.
 - Monitor the relative humidity and temperature in the Object Storeroom.
 - Create a plan for preventive conservation for the Object Storeroom.
- November-December 2016
 - Finish up Kyrenia Castle Activities listed above, possibly extending into 2017.