

# The Kyrenia Ship Conservation Project

## Kyrenia Ship Collection: Conservation Progress Report

July 2016



Photographs courtesy of Veronica Ford and Cassy Cutulle, 2016

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## General Introduction

During July the conservators have continued the documentation process, with particular focus on photographing the progress made with object treatments so far. In addition, work on reconstructing the ceramics has continued and the Project Team was consulted on the future restoration of the ceramics. Conservation activities during this month were limited because the conservators were on personal leave—Cassy Cutulle was away from Cyprus between July 1<sup>st</sup> and July 26<sup>th</sup> and Veronica Ford was away between July 1<sup>st</sup> and July 17<sup>th</sup>.

## July 2016: Conservation Tasks in Progress

### Preventive Conservation Tasks

Monitoring and logging of the relative humidity and temperature at the Conservation Laboratory in Nicosia continued between July 18<sup>th</sup> and July 29<sup>th</sup>. As previously, data was collected four times per week - on Monday and Friday mornings and afternoons at approximately 9:00am and 2:00pm. Unfortunately, the conservators were not able to collect data between July 1<sup>st</sup> and July 17<sup>th</sup> when they were absent on personal leave. However, the data collected in the second half of July reflects a rise in temperature versus previous months, due to the hot summer weather.

During their time away from Cyprus, the conservators were able to collect and transport a considerable quantity of conservation supplies which were not readily available locally, including a magnetic stirrer to help mix adhesives and archival foam, tissue paper and silica gel to provide adequate archival storage for the objects.

Additionally, upon arriving back at the Conservation Laboratory, the conservators noticed that two of the sticky blunder traps were full with over-sized pests/animals. One trap contained a large spider, while the other a lizard and snake. These traps have been disposed of and will be replaced with new ones, and the pests/animals logged in the integrated pest management (IPM) spreadsheet.



**Figs. 1-2: Photographs displaying the large spider (left) and lizard and snake (right) found within two of the sticky blunder traps placed in the lab at the end of June (Photographs courtesy of Cassy Cutulle, 2016).**

## Remedial Conservation Tasks

During the second half of July several days were devoted to recording the current treatment progress by way of photographic documentation. In particular, objects which had recently been desalinated and restored were photographed. This will allow the conservators to monitor any visual changes to the ceramics which may have resulted from the treatment process. A total of 35 objects were photographed with the result that the next stage of treatment may now progress.

No further desalination of the ceramics was carried out in July whilst the conservators wait for the delivery of a replacement cartridge for the DI750 machine. Delivery of this cartridge is expected in the next week.

As in previous months, reconstruction of the ceramics proceeded. As before, the archival adhesive Paraloid B-44 at 40% concentration w/v in acetone, was applied to the joins using a paintbrush. The time taken to reconstruct each object was found to vary greatly depending on the complexity and individual characteristics of each ceramic. 14 objects have been successfully reconstructed in July using the methods described above, with a total of 30 ceramics reconstructed altogether.

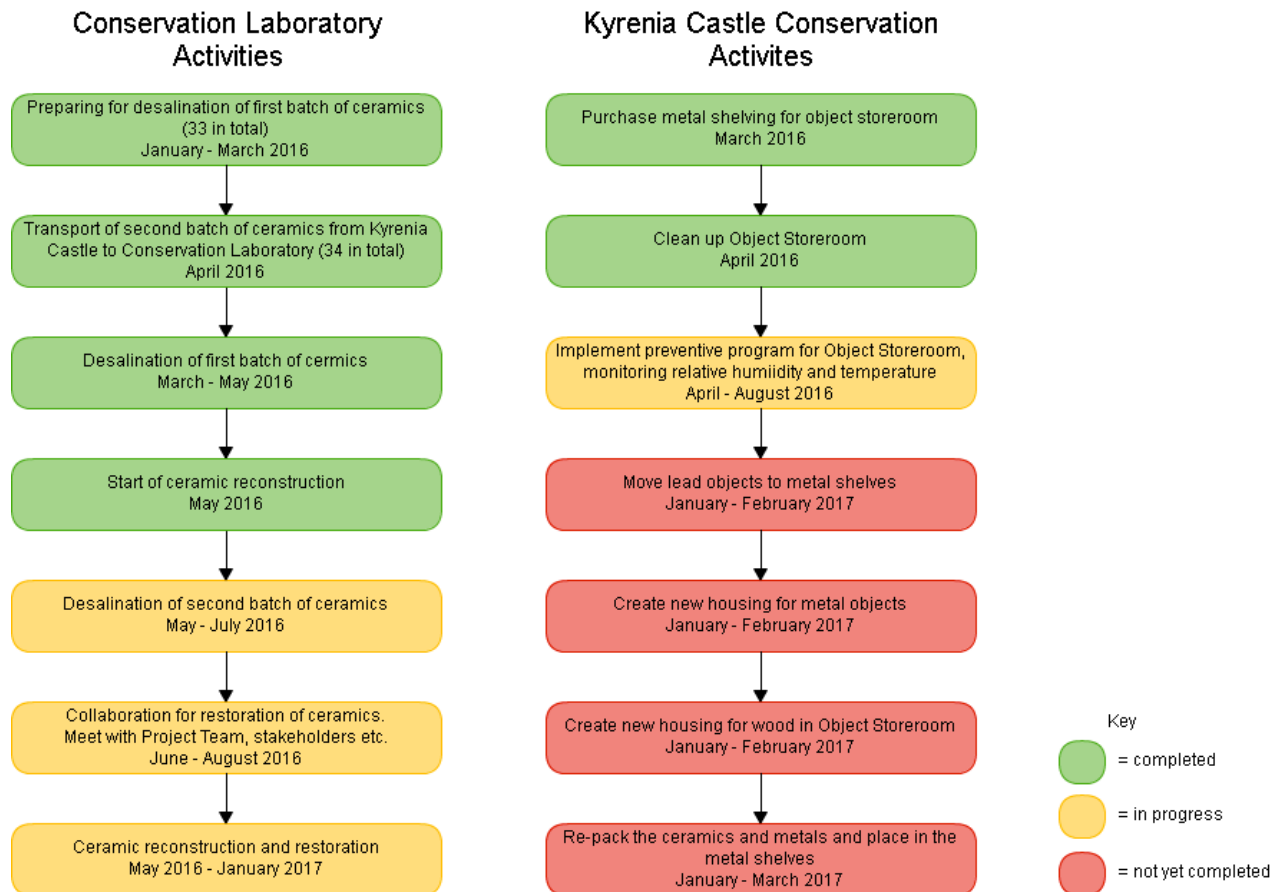


**Fig. 3: Photograph of conservator Veronica Ford holding a ceramic bowl in place after reconstruction (Photograph courtesy of Cassy Cutulle, 2016).**

During July, Susan Katzev, Helena Swiny and Andrea Berlin from the Project Team met to discuss how the restoration of the ceramics should proceed and which ceramics should be prioritised for restoration based on a curatorial perspective. A meeting with the bi-communal Focal Points and Martina Zaccaro - UNDP Representative - has been planned by the conservators for early August. This feedback will allow the conservators to focus their restoration efforts on the key pieces of the collection, and in particular the items which will be returned to display at Kyrenia Castle.

## August 2016: Projected Work Plan

In August, the conservators will carry out the final desalination of the second group of ceramic objects which were transported to the Conservation Laboratory in mid-April. Reconstruction of the ceramics will continue, along with restoration, the progress of which will be based on discussions with the bi-communal Focal Points and the Project Team. Preventive conservation activities and supply ordering will proceed as appropriate.



**Fig. 4: Flow chart displaying the activities to be undertaken by the conservators for this Project and the progress made thus far (Flow chart courtesy of Veronica Ford, 2016).**