

## **Leon-Levy Conservation Laboratory Dushak, Turkmenistan**

### **Report on the Autumn 2018 operation Training Course**

Course in conservation and restoration of archaeological metal

29<sup>th</sup> of October-8<sup>th</sup> of November 2018

By Estelle Ottenwelter

A fifth training course on Conservation restoration of Cultural Heritage was organized with the financial support of the foundation Leon Levy in the Leon-Levy conservation-restoration laboratory of Dushak in October and November 2018.

This year, session was dedicated to excavated metal. Seven trainees from different Turkmen institutions ("Abiverd" State historical and cultural parc, "Kone Urgensh" National Museum, "Dashoguz " Historical and Regional Museum, Museum of Fine Arts, Saparmurad Turkmenbashy, Ashghabat, State Museum, Ashghabat) attended the course.

#### **List of the participants:**

- 1- Maral Garrybayeva ("Koneurgensh" National museum, State historical and Cultural park)
- 2- Jumaniyazov Anvar ("Dashoguz" Historical and Regional Museum)
- 3- Esenov Abdurakhman ("Abiverd" State Historical and Cultural park )
- 4- Meleyev Merdan ("Merv" State Historical and Cultural park)
- 5- Meredov Gurbanmurat ("Ashgabat" Museum of Fine Arts, Saparmurad Turkmenbashy)
- 6- Shamsedinov Khekhim ("Ashgabat" State Museum)
- 7- Orazgeldi Nuraliyev ("Abiverd" State Historical and Cultural park)



The trainees received over ten days without interruption, the theoretical and practical knowledge to implement the conservation-restoration of archaeological metal along the lines edicted by the DMF (Direction des Musées de France), with due respect for the integrity of the archaeological artifacts and the use of reversible materials. During the course, they were able to put this knowledge in

practise and performed the complete restoration of 32 archaeological metallic artefacts (copper alloys, iron) coming from different archaeological sites in Turkmenistan (Ulug Dépé, Kone Urgensh, Abiverd) and from different archaeological period (Iron Age, Medieval Age).

The course was taught in Russian. A training course manual in Russian was issued to provide theoretical knowledge, manufacture processes, deterioration and conservation. An illustrated section is given to the different stages of conservation and restoration of excavated metal, from the theoretical background to the practice work performed by the trainees. Each trainee received this manual as a memento of their training work.

A ceremony organized with local authorities, the director of the French Turkmen excavation in Ulug Depe and with the participation of the French Ambassador was held in front of the Leon Levy laboratory. Trainees received a diploma attesting that they have completed a training course in the conservation of excavated metal. The ambassadors of the United states, Great Britain, Italy and Romania were present at the ceremony.



The results of this fifth course are good. All trainees demonstrated motivation and manual dexterity. They displayed their capacity to think about and reflect upon the need to understand the artifacts they had in their care. They attained considerable skill in the restoration of excavated metal.

It is hoped that the eagerness to learn and the ability that the trainees have demonstrated during the training will lead them to an entire professional autonomy.

Estelle Ottenwelter  
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**Trainees at work:**









**Examples of restored objects during the training:**









