Abstract
This project presents an analysis of the process of restoring and analyzing Bronze Age ceramics, using pots which were excavated from the site of Seyitömer Höyük as a primary example. The site resides in Kütahya, Turkey, located in western Turkey about 354 kilometers southeast of Istanbul. This site is very important for the history of the area, since there was and still is today a large pottery trade throughout Turkey. Additionally, the mound contains some of the largest evidence for pottery production and trade with the Mediterranean and other parts of Anatolia. By restoring ceramics from this site, archaeologists can look at the ceramic as a whole and not just as fragments. Scholars have now been able to determine the functions of each type of vessel and also discover that the inhabitants had very specialized uses for each form. These artifacts are now displayed in the Kütahya Archaeological Museum and used for public outreach.

Theory: Defining Restoration

Restoration is the process of bringing an object to its original state. Without artifact restoration, people cannot see vessels as a whole and discover their true functions.

Learning from Ceramics

By excavating and then reconstructing vessels, archaeologists are able to learn about religious activities and trade across Anatolia and the Mediterranean, and food production of the people that lived on the site. Archaeologists are only able to do this since they have a complete look at what the ceramic vessels look like. Ceramics cannot be fully analyzed and dated, unless a majority of the body is present.

Museums and Public Outreach

By reaching out to the local people, the public can become both informed and involved in the excavation process. Dumlupınar University brings a model of the megaron to local malls, which allows younger children to experience the sensation of excavations and discovering artifacts. In addition this allows children to learn more about their local heritage and who their ancestors were.

References and Acknowledgments


Special thanks to my committee members, Dr. Peter Biehl, Dr. Brad Ault, and Dr. Stephen Dyson for fostering my research and passion for archaeology. In addition to Laura Harrison, M.A. for providing endless help and research material. As well as Dr. Doug Perrella and several friends for giving continuous support. Also Dr. Nejat Bilgen from Dumlupinarn University for giving permission to study the ceramics from Seyitömer Höyük. Finally funding from CURCA and the Honors College that made this project possible.