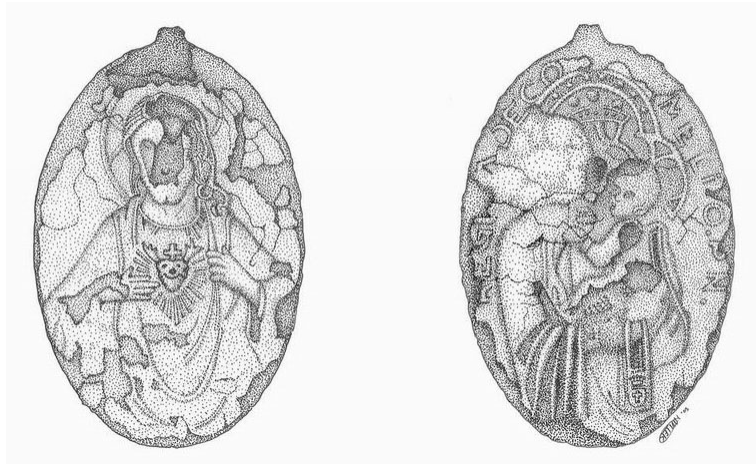


**Artifact Conservation Report on a Scapular Medal
(FLMNH: 2000-22 FS 1.06) Recovered from 8-SA-35-2,
The Convent Site, St. Augustine, Florida**



For

The Sisters of St. Joseph
241 St. George Street
St. Augustine, Florida 32084

and

Guglielmo & Associates, Inc.
P.O. Box 274130
Tampa, Florida 33688-4130

By

Jason M. Burns
Lighthouse Archaeological Maritime Program
81 Lighthouse Avenue
St. Augustine, Florida 32080

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Introduction

The Lighthouse Archaeological Maritime Program's (LAMP) artifact conservation laboratory was contracted by the Sisters of St. Joseph and Guglielmo & Associates to conduct artifact conservation procedures on an unknown religious medallion recovered from 8-SA-35-2, The Convent Site. The medallion, now in the historical archaeology collection at the Florida Museum of Natural History (FLMNH), did not receive conservation treatment immediately after its excavation in 1978 and was in a very unstable condition. The Sisters of St. Joseph requested the artifact from the FLMNH to put on display at their newly restored Father Miguel O'Reilly House. Conservation treatments were needed to stabilize the artifact for display purposes.

Archaeological Information

The medal (FLMNH: 2000-22, FS 1.06) was excavated from the Convent Site, 8-SA35-2 in 1978. Unfortunately, all records of this excavation have been lost or destroyed, therefore no provenience information is associated with the medal.

The Scapular Medal

The medal is made of an unknown metal, although it appears to be a cupreous alloy plated over tin. Further analysis under a scanning electron microscope is needed and can be performed in the future. The medal is ovoid in shape, (see figures 1 and 2), and is 1.82 cm wide and 2.71 cm long. The metal's thickness measures 0.17 cm and it weighs 3.57 grams. A small lug is still evident along the top of the medal and if complete, would have formed the attachment point for a jump ring, which would then connect to a necklace.



Figure 1: Scapular Medal (Front)



Figure 2: Scapular Medal (Back)
Note: Lug suspension attachment still evident.

The Imagery and the History of the Scapular Medal

The medal's imagery is that of the Brown Scapular of our Lady of Mt. Carmel. The front of the medal is the image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the back is Our Lady of Mt. Carmel. The back is inscribed with the words, "Regina Décor Carmeli O.R.N.," translated as, Queen Beauty of Carmel, Pray for Us (Figures 3 and 4).

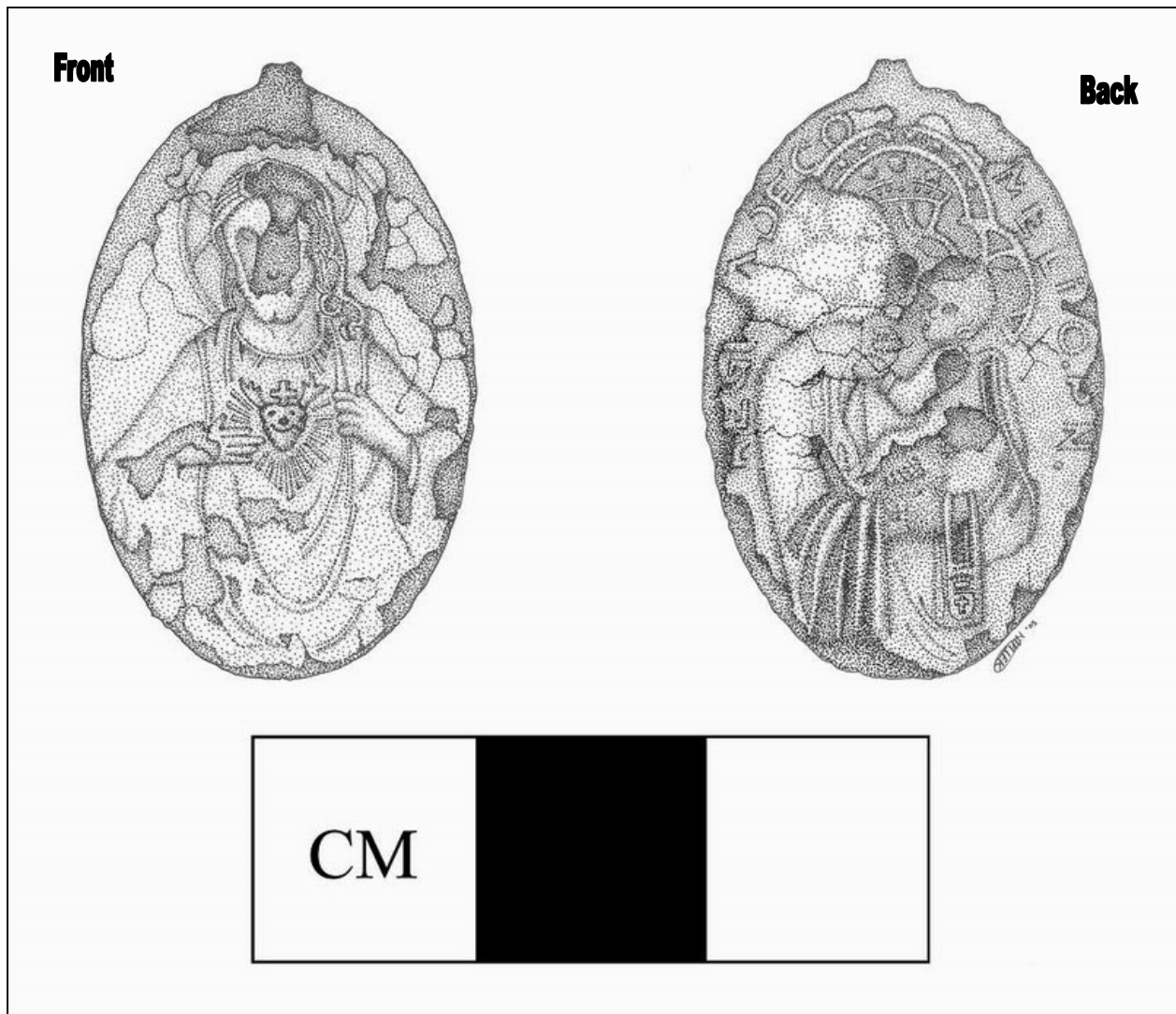


Figure 3: Artist's Rendering of the Brown Scapular Medal. Drawing by James W. Hunter.



Figure 4: Image of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel holding the cloth Brown Scapular in her hand. The imagery is the same as seen on the medal. (Unknown Date, http://carmelnet.org/galleries/OLMC_Main/OLMC_3/olmc024.jpg).

The Brown Scapular consists of two panels of cloth joined by strings and worn over the shoulders. The Scapular was given to Saint Simon Stock on July 16, 1251 by the blessed Virgin who appeared to Stock at the Carmelite Priory in Cambridge, England and said to him, “Take, beloved son this scapular of thy order as a badge of my confraternity and for thee and all Carmelites a special sign of grace; whoever dies in this garment, will not suffer everlasting fire. It is the sign of salvation, a safeguard in dangers, a pledge of peace and of the covenant” (<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/13508b.htm>). The Brown Scapular is perhaps the oldest of the Scapulars and served as the prototype for other Scapulars (<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/13508b.htm>).

The Scapular medal was authorized to wear as a substitute instead of the cloth by Pope St. Pius X in his regulation of the Holy Office on December 16, 1910 (<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/13508b.htm>). The medal must have on one side the representation of Jesus Christ with his Most Sacred Heart and on the other side an image of the Mother of God. The medal must be blessed by a priest who has the ability to bless medals and must be worn constantly around the neck. The medal was originally authorized as a replacement for residents of tropical regions and those in military service who could not conveniently wear a cloth scapular. This may explain the medal's place in Florida.

Based on the history of the Brown Scapular Medal, the medal recovered from 8-SA-35-2 probably dates from the late 19th or early 20th century. As is often the case with archaeological finds, the exact dates may never be known.

Archaeological Conservation

Due to the lack of proper conservation upon excavation, the medal was in an advanced stage of deterioration. The only course of action was to record the artifact through detailed drawings and photographs then stabilize the artifact and consolidate the medal as a whole. The medal was first hand cleaned utilizing small dental tools and a soft bristle brush to remove as much of the surface corrosion as possible. The medal was then placed in a 5% solution of Acryloid B-72 and Acetone. The medal was removed after five days of immersion and allowed to air dry. Acryloid B-72 is a thermoplastic acrylic resin that dries with less gloss and is resistant to discoloration. Acryloid B-72 is a very durable consolidant and has excellent resistance to water, alkalis, acids, oils and grease. All conservation treatments are 100% reversible if this should need to be done.

Conclusions and Recommendations for Display

The Lighthouse Archaeological Maritime Program's artifact conservation laboratory completed detailed drawings, photographs and artifact conservation on a Brown Scapular Medal recovered from 8-SA-35-2 for the Sisters of St. Joseph and Gugliemo & Associates. The medal has been conserved with Acryloid B-72 and Acetone and should be stable for display purposes. The display should be in an interior room with temperature and humidity controls. The medal should be stored in less than 60% humidity on non-acidic display materials and kept out of direct ultra-violet light.

References Cited

http://carmelnet.org/galleries/OLMC_Main/OLMC_3/olmc024.jpg

<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/13508b.htm>