

Ceramic Conservation



Ceramic Conservation Project

1. Causes of Damage to Ceramics
2. Conservation Treatments
3. SFU Museum Ceramics Collection
 - Create storage mounts for ceramics in museum storage
 - Research South American ceramics

Causes of Damage to Ceramics

- Ceramics are durable inorganic materials that generally preserve well in most environments.
- Ceramics can be damaged by:
 - Soluble Salts
 - Insoluble Salts (Encrustations)
 - Esp. in marine environments
 - Mechanical Breakage

Causes of Damage to Ceramics

Soluble Salts

- Chlorides, phosphates
nitrates
- Salts penetrate the
ceramics; crystal
growth causes flaking
and splitting.



Conservation Treatments

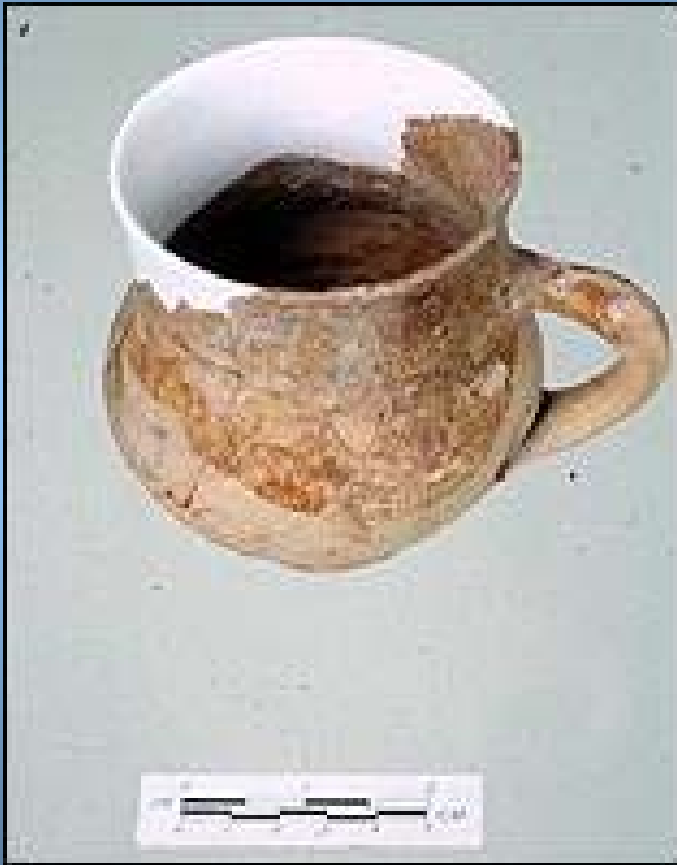
Removing Soluble & Insoluble Salts



- Water Rinse
- Mechanical removal of encrustations
- Chemical removal
- Testing for presence of salts:
 - Silver Nitrate Test
 - Conductivity Meter

Conservation Treatments

Repair of Mechanical Breakage



- Glue
- Fill Material
- Reversibility of Treatments

SFU Museum Ceramics Collection

Storage Considerations

1. Stability
2. Visibility
3. Accessibility



SFU Museum Ceramics Collection

South American Ceramics



Collection includes ceramics from:

- Chimú Culture, Peru
(AD 1300 – 1500)
- Quimbaya Culture, Columbia
(AD 1200 –1400)
- Manteno Culture, Ecuador
(500 BC – AD 1500)