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TO CLEAN OR NOT TO CLEAN: THAT IS THE RESEARCH QUESTION

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What do we gain by conducting all sorts of interdisciplinary research into archaeological metals? And would it be best to perform analytical studies before or after conservation? The answers to these questions depend ultimately on the type of object, its context, its stability and the techniques used. For archaeological marine precious metals like silver and gold, a research and conservation strategy is being developed in the Netherlands. This so-called AMOR-project is funded by the Dutch Research Council and uses spectacular precious metal finds from a 17th century shipwreck to study the best way to extract information. The results from this process provide all stakeholders in the archaeological process with more background information to aid decision-making, eventually leading to implementing best practises. It is a challenge to embed this strategy into the daily practice of all people involved, due to for example time and/or financial restrictions. This presentation will highlight multiple scenarios and give tips and tricks on how to integrate research and gain valuable information from archaeological metals.

Keywords

precious metal, research, conservation, strategy, best practise

Note/comment