

## **An archaeometric investigation on two Archaic antefixes (VI-V century BC) recovered by the Guardia di Finanza**

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Several art works belonging to the Archaic period –VI/V century BC- have been recovered during an intervention of the Guardia di Finanza in a private house in Lanuvio (Rome). Among these artefacts, two decorated and artfully manufactured ceramic antefixes, in particular, have intrigued archaeologist and art historians because of their stylistic similarities with very precious and rare analogous pieces stored at the British Museum (UK) and at the Etruscan Museum of Villa Giulia (Rome). If authentic, these antefixes could represent a fundamental finding providing a further contribution to the knowledge of the Archaic period manufacturing technology. Aim of this work was to investigate the constitutive materials (clay and pigments) and the conservation state, thus giving a scientific basis for a possible authentication of these findings. Preliminary visible and UV optical observations have been performed to investigate the surface of the two antefixes and their conservation state, to point out differences and similarities between the two pieces and to select the sampling areas. Raman, FTIR, XRD and SEM/EDS investigations have been performed on twelve samples (six for each artwork). Moreover, three samples from the back side of the artefacts have been selected for petrographic/mineralogical investigations. Experimental results, in particular the presence a gypsum preparatory layer and a low firing temperature, suggested that both these artworks are good copies recently manufactured.