

Detachment of the 3rd Century A.D. Mosaic Floor Panel from Tell El-Farama, North Sinai, Egypt

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Abstract:

The mosaic floor panel was discovered at Tell El-Farama excavation, north Sinai. It belongs to the Roman period 3rd Century A.D. The mosaic panel was decorated with geometric and animal patterns which are composed by black, white, red brown and red tesserae. Mechanical and chemical cleaning was carried out in the site on the panel to remove the soil residues and contaminates.

After cleaning, the mosaic panel suffered serious problems, among which: some parts of the panel had already been destroyed, some tesserae were disaggregated and exfoliated in addition to dirt and spots, which covered the surface. The mosaic panel was studied by many analytical methods including XRD and scanning electron microscopy with an energy dispersive X-ray analysis (SEM/EDX). The obtained results showed that the white tesserae consist of a limestone and the red and black tesserae are fired clays.

Then it detached from its original location and transported to the conservation laboratory to receive the proper treatment procedures. A plan was suggested to re-lay the mosaic panel on a new honeycomb support.