An Investigation of Painted Wood Shields from 3rd Century Dura-Europos
Anne Turner Gunnison & Irma Passeri
Yale University Art Gallery

Current Project
In 2013, the Warrior God shield (1935.553) was chosen by Assistant Curator of Ancient Art, Linn Brook, to be displayed in YUAG’s new Dura-Europos gallery. As time was short, the priority was to orient and clean the shield. The PCA that was applied by Gute was dirty, had stripped off, and obscured the imagery; it was removed with acetone. Testing and painting layers were then applied with a VELA mounted jar, and an array of Mediums for Conservation Purposes (AMCP). An x-ray of the painted imagery could be more clearly recognized and the shield is now displayed in a climate controlled environment.

After examining the shield together, the authors decided to look at the other two shields, which had been in storage for many years. Both had been previously examined by Steven Jones and included in the 1936-37 Dura-Europos Final Report. The Joints and Jars and other Armor Artifacts. The Hemiote and Amazon shields are in very poor condition; the Amazon shield (1935.552) is in extremely poor condition, with the most extensive wood, paint, and gesso loss, and as well as the most fragile wood.

Anthony De Camillo of YUAG’s Department of Visual Resources photographed all three shields during normal, dark, UV and IR lights. egret corner; a series of emblems, the dark YUAG collection, both heating to display three of the images overlaid on each other. These three emblems were oriented on the shields, but IR imaging provided another view, showing complex and well-wrought paintings, especially on the Amazon shield (1935.552), which also becomes the focus of the current study for the project.

Existing Roman paintings on wood substrates are rare, with very few examples being Roman Egyptian mummy portraits and painted panels. Analogous examples of painted shields are even more uncommon. James Edson’s examination of the shields, done by YUAG conservators, for the 1936-37 Final Report also overlaid on each other. These three emblems were oriented on the shields, but IR imaging provided another view, showing complex and well-wrought paintings, especially on the Amazon shield (1935.552), which also becomes the focus of the current study for the project.

Examining Roman paintings on wood substrates is rare, with very few examples being Roman Egyptian mummy portraits and painted panels. Analogous examples of painted shields are even more uncommon. James Edson’s examination of the shields, done by YUAG conservators, for the 1936-37 Final Report also overlaid on each other. These three emblems were oriented on the shields, but IR imaging provided another view, showing complex and well-wrought paintings, especially on the Amazon shield (1935.552), which also becomes the focus of the current study for the project.

Preparing Paint Layers
After construction, the wood substrate was coated with a thin layer of glue, in areas of roughness, the layer is visible through the microscope as a transparent and brittle layer characterized by a crystalline structure. The whole wood surface was prepared by a process that is required with a synthetic or natural material to bridge the wood surface and the paint layer. Once the wood was sanded, the paint was applied to the wood surface and the paint layer was painted with a synthetic or natural material to bridge the wood surface and the paint layer. Once the wood was sanded, the paint was applied to the wood surface and the paint layer was painted with a synthetic or natural material to bridge the wood surface and the paint layer. Once the wood was sanded, the paint was applied to the wood surface and the paint layer was painted with a synthetic or natural material to bridge the wood surface and the paint layer. Once the wood was sanded, the paint was applied to the wood surface and the paint layer was painted with a synthetic or natural material to bridge the wood surface and the paint layer. Once the wood was sanded, the paint was applied to the wood surface and the paint layer was painted with a synthetic or natural material to bridge the wood surface and the paint layer. Once the wood was sanded, the paint was applied to the wood surface and the paint layer was painted with a synthetic or natural material to bridge the wood surface and the paint layer. Once the wood was sanded, the paint was applied to the wood surface and the paint layer was painted with a synthetic or natural material to bridge the wood surface and the paint layer. Once the wood was sanded, the paint was applied to the wood surface and the paint layer was painted with a synthetic or natural material to bridge the wood surface and the paint layer. Once the wood was sanded, the paint was applied to the wood surface and the paint layer was painted with a synthetic or natural material to bridge the wood surface and the paint layer. Once the wood was sanded, the paint was applied to the wood surface and the paint layer was painted with a synthetic or natural material to bridge the wood surface and the paint layer. Once the wood was sanded, the paint was applied to the wood surface and the paint layer was painted with a synthetic or natural material to bridge the wood surface and the paint layer. Once the wood was sanded, the paint was applied to the wood surface and the paint layer was painted with a synthetic or natural material to bridge the wood surface and the paint layer. Once the wood was sanded, the paint was applied to the wood surface and the paint layer was painted with a synthetic or natural material to bridge the wood surface and the paint layer. Once the wood was sanded, the paint was applied to the wood surface and the paint layer was painted with a synthetic or natural material to bridge the wood surface and the paint layer. Once the wood was sanded, the paint was applied to the wood surface and the paint layer was painted with a synthetic or natural material to bridge the wood surface and the paint layer. Once the wood was sanded, the paint was applied to the wood surface and the paint layer was painted with a synthetic or natural material to bridge the wood surface and the paint layer. Once the wood was sanded, the paint was applied to the wood surface and the paint layer was painted with a synthetic or natural material to bridge the wood surface and the paint layer. Once the wood was sanded, the paint was applied to the wood surface and the paint layer was painted with a synthetic or natural material to bridge the wood surface and the paint layer. Once the wood was sanded, the paint was applied to the wood surface and the paint layer was painted with a synthetic or natural material to bridge the wood surface and the paint layer. Once the wood was sanded, the paint was applied to the wood surface and the paint layer was painted with a synthetic or natural material to bridge the wood surface and the paint layer. Once the wood was sanded, the paint was applied to the wood surface and the paint layer was painted with a synthetic or natural material to bridge the wood surface and the paint layer. Once the wood was sanded, the paint was applied to the wood surface and the paint layer was painted with a synthetic or natural material to bridge the wood surface and the paint layer. Once the wood was sanded, the paint was applied to the wood surface and the paint layer was painted with a synthetic or natural material to bridge the wood surface and the paint layer. Once the wood was sanded, the paint was applied to the wood surface and the paint layer was painted with a synthetic or natural material to bridge the wood surface and the paint layer. Once the wood was sanded, the paint was applied to the wood surface and the paint layer was painted with a synthetic or natural material to bridge the wood surface and the paint layer. Once the wood was sanded, the paint was applied to the wood surface and the paint layer was painted with a synthetic or natural material to bridge the wood surface and the paint layer. Once the wood was sanded, the paint was applied to the wood surface and the paint layer was painted with a synthetic or natural material to bridge the wood surface and the paint layer. Once the wood was sanded, the paint was applied to the wood surface and the paint layer was painted with a synthetic or natural material to bridge the wood surface and the paint layer. Once the wood was sanded, the paint was applied to the wood surface and the paint layer was painted with a synthetic or natural material to bridge the wood surface and the paint layer. Once the wood was sanded, the paint was applied to the wood surface and the paint layer was painted with a synthetic or natural material to bridge the wood surface and the paint layer. Once the wood was sanded, the paint was applied to the wood surface and the paint layer was painted with a synthetic or natural material to bridge the wood surface and the paint layer. Once the wood was sanded, the paint was applied to the wood surface and the paint layer was painted with a synthetic or natural material to bridge the wood surface and the paint layer. Once the wood was sanded, the paint was applied to the wood surface and the paint layer was painted with a synthetic or natural material to bridge the wood surface and the paint layer. Once the wood was sanded, the paint was applied to the wood surface and the paint layer was painted with a synthetic or natural material to bridge the wood surface and the paint layer. Once the wood was sanded, the paint was applied to the wood surface and the paint layer was painted with a synthetic or natural material to bridge the wood surface and the paint layer. Once the wood was sanded, the paint was applied to the wood surface and the paint layer was painted with a synthetic or natural material to bridge the wood surface and the paint layer. Once the wood was sanded, the paint was applied to the wood surface and the paint layer was painted with a synthetic or natural material to bridge the wood surface and the paint layer. Once the wood was sanded, the paint was applied to the wood surface and the paint layer was painted with a synthetic or natural material to bridge the wood surface and the paint layer. Once the wood was sanded, the paint was applied to the wood surface and the paint layer was painted with a synthetic or natural material to bridge the wood surface and the paint layer. Once the wood was sanded, the paint was applied to the wood surface and the paint layer was painted with a synthetic or natural material to bridge the wood surface and the paint layer. Once the wood was sanded, the paint was applied to the wood surface and the paint layer was paint....