



The Gallone Samples Archive (Politecnico di Milano)



Serena Benelli

PhD Candidate, Politecnico di Milano, Department of Architecture, Built environment, and Construction engineering, Italy

A vast collection of samples from Italian and European artworks. A unique resource for future research in the field of conservation.

Samples from masterpieces

The Gallone Archive is part of the Politecnico di Milano archives, and consists of **almost 12K samples**, of which 6K are polished cross-sections. The raw samples are both micro-fragments and powders. The main case study is the *Last Supper* by Leonardo da Vinci (around 500 samples).

These materials were collected by **Antonietta Gallone (1928-2015)**, a physics researcher at the Politecnico, over several decades of activity. Her work involved compositional analyses and morphological observations to improve knowledge of materials, techniques, and the state of conservation of Cultural Heritage objects. Her inquiries are described in over 600 reports which have been digitized and are available to scholars at www.archiviogallone.fisi.polimi.it

The Archive is relevant for its documentary and historical value (in 2007 it was declared of "considerable cultural interest" by the Italian Ministry of Culture), but also because it is a unique resource for research in conservation. The possibility to re-investigate the same samples using more advanced techniques, could open up important research opportunities.

For the development of this statement of significance the following have been consulted:

- Bibliographic and documentary materials kept in the Gallone Archive;
- CH diagnostics experts from **ISPC-CNR** (see their archive poster), and **Politecnico di Milano**.

Some interviews have been carried out with Gallone's former collaborators.

Antonietta Gallone was an early pioneer whose work helped to define the **modern profile of conservation scientists**.

The major goals we are pursuing are:

- Valorizing the archive and defining a methodology for the classification and cataloguing of CH samples with a special emphasis on the **Last Supper samples collection**;
- Developing a **methodological approach** covering the whole cycle, from the sampling procedures to the long-term management of the collection;
- Designing an **Information System for samples referencing** on digital models of the original artworks, with the 3D Survey Laboratory of the Politecnico (*Last Supper* by Leonardo da Vinci is the main case study).



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