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## Organic Additives of the Clay Layers: Plant Materials

The organic additives of the clay layers consist of plant material and hairs. The undercoat contains chaff and hair, sometimes in tufts. The finish coat contains fine and mostly well distributed amounts of hair.

The organic additives found in the undercoat can be macroscopically identified as leaves and stems as well as parts of infructescences like husks and grains. At least the latter can be interpreted as residues of threshing.

The analysis was made on the base of botanical characteristics.<sup>56</sup> For this method leaves, parts of flowers or seeds are required. Fortunately, the materials imbedded in the clay plasters contained sufficient amounts of different parts of the plants. The samples selected for the analysis are listed in table 1.

### Results

The analysis on the grains and husks resulted that the species of corn can be identified as common wheat (*triticum aestivum*, in German: Weichweizen, Nacktweizen) with more than 90 % of the analysed material. A low amount of common barley (*hordeum vulgare*, in German: zweizeilige Gerste) was found as well (figs. 1-3).

Table 1 Samples selected for identification of plant material

| origin  | number of samples | analysis         |
|---|-------------------|------------------|
| Eastern Buddha, undercoat                                     | 2                 | dec. 2006        |
| Eastern Buddha, undercoat, collected in sept. 2006            | 1                 | not yet          |
| tschaul, the main nourishment before introduction of potatoes | 1                 | reference sample |
| corn species grown in Bāmiyān                                 | 3                 | not yet          |



Fig. 1. Fragments GBL 2377-2833 from the Western Buddha containing large amounts of hair [E. Melzl]

Fig. 2. Samples of hair taken from the clay fragments [S. Pfeffer]

