Supplementary Material

Micro-chemical investigation of long-term buried gilded and silvered artefacts from ancient Peru

Gabriel M. Ingo[1*], Monica Albini[1], Angel D. Bustamante[2], Sandra del Pilar Zambrano Alva[2], Arabel Fernandez[3], Chiara Giuliani[1], Elena Messina[1], Marianna Pascucci[1], Cristina Riccucci[1], Paola Staccioli[1], Gabriella Di Carlo[1] and Luca Tortora[4]

[1] Institute for the study of nanostructured materials, National Research Council, Rome 1 Research Area-Montelibretti, via Salaria km 29.3, 00015 Monterotondo, Rome, Italy
[2] Departamento Académico de Física del Estado Sólido, Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos, Lima Peru
[3] Museo Señora de Cao and Fundacion Wiese, Trujillo, Peru
[4] Surface Analysis Laboratory, INFN & Department of Mathematics and Physics, Roma Tre University, via della Vasca Navale 84, 00146 Rome, Italy

* **Corresponding author**: gabrielmaria.ingo@cnr.it

Special Section: This article was submitted to Environmental Materials, a section of the journal Frontiers in Materials
Research Topic: Nanoscience and Nanomaterials for the Knowledge and Conservation of Cultural Heritage

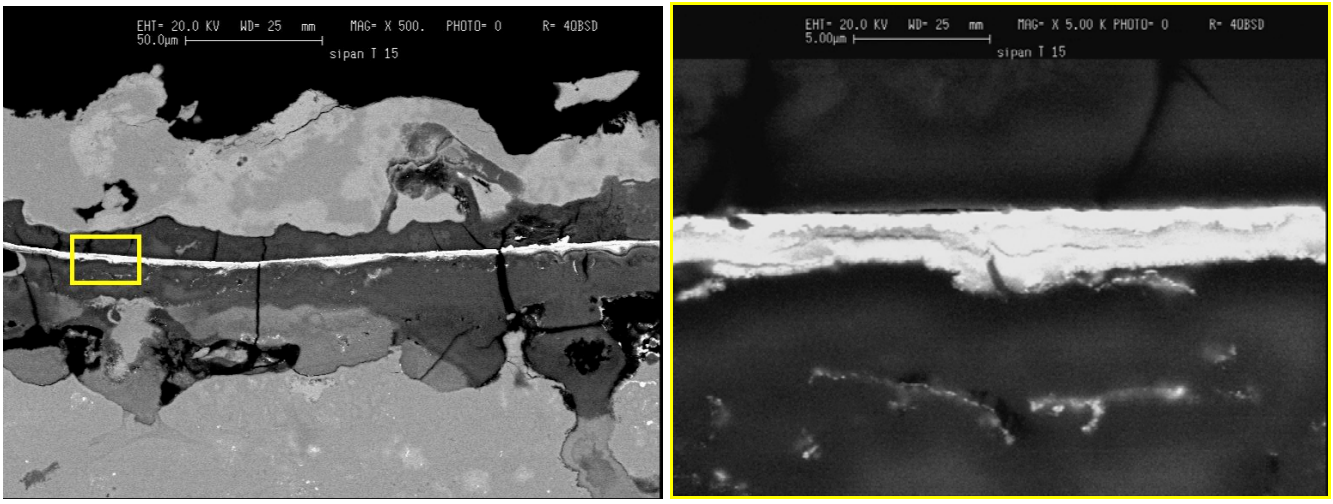

FIGURE S1 | SEM BSE images of a cross-sectioned fragment of a gilded semicircular diadem completely mineralised (tomb T15 of a young warrior, Sipán). The image on the right is the magnification of the area evidenced by a yellow rectangle. The BSE SEM image on the right allows to measure the thickness of the gilding layer that in this area ranges from 2 to 3 μm.

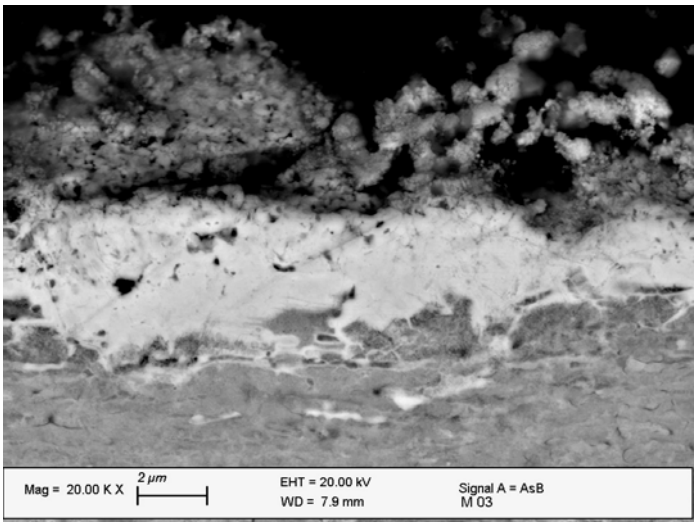

FIGURE S2 | BSE FE-SEM image of the cross-sectioned fragment of the nariguera F4-03 (tomb of the Lady of Cao) taken in the silvered area (head of the animal on the left, see **Figure 4**).

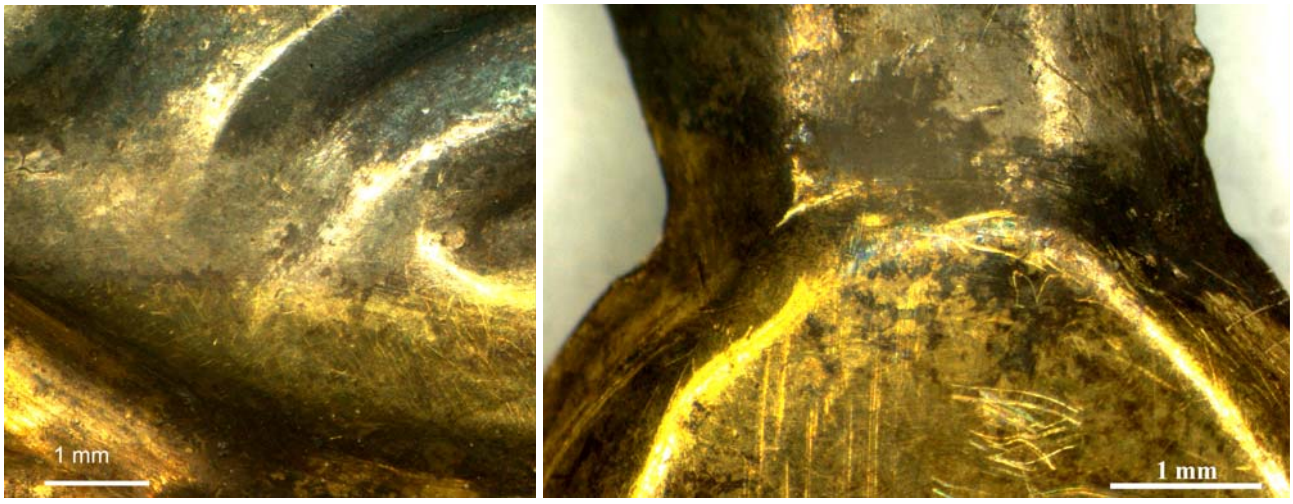

FIGURE S3 | Optical images of the nariguera F4-03 from the tomb of the Lady of Cao showing the colour change at the interface between the “gold” and the “silver” areas.