Image Editing Programs as Tools for the Study of Ancient Inscriptions

A practical example from the epigraphic dossier of Luna (Italia – regio VII Etruria)
The site of Luna
(modern-day Luni, Ortonovo, SP)
Statue base

Picture taken with natural light
1) Contrast enhancement:
   Image>Adjustments>
   Brightness/Contrast;
   Contrast value set at 100

2) Adjustment of color saturation:
   Image>Adjustments>Hue/Saturation;
   Saturation value set at -100 for Yellows,
   Greens, Cyans, Blues and Magentas;
   Saturation value set at around +60/70 for Reds

3) Vibrance enhancement:
   Image>Adjustments>Vibrance;
   Vibrance value set at +100

4) Selective color:
   Image>Adjustments>
   Selective color>Reds;
   Cyan value set at -5%;
   Magenta value set at +10%;
   Yellow value set at +60%;
   Black value set at +50%

Image editing
Main steps followed with Adobe® Photoshop® CS5
Painted inscription (detail)
with a proposal of transcription
Top surface of the base

Note the hole (filled with metal) in which a dowel for attaching the bronze statue was fitted.