



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI  
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# Image Editing Programs as Tools for the Study of Ancient Inscriptions

A practical example  
from the epigraphic dossier of  
Luna (Italia – regio VII Etruria)



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES FOR  
EPIGRAPHY AND  
DIGITAL CULTURAL HERITAGE IN THE ANCIENT WORLD

September 29-30 and October 1, 2014

École Normale Supérieure

Collège de France Chaire Religion, institutions et société de la Rome antique  
Paris, France



The site of Luna  
(modern-day Luni, Ortonovo, SP)



**Marble statue base from Luna**  
La Spezia, Museo Civico Archeologico  
"U. Formentini", depots – inv. F 1864



## Statue base

Picture taken with grazing light



**Statue base**  
Detail of the guidelines



**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



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%



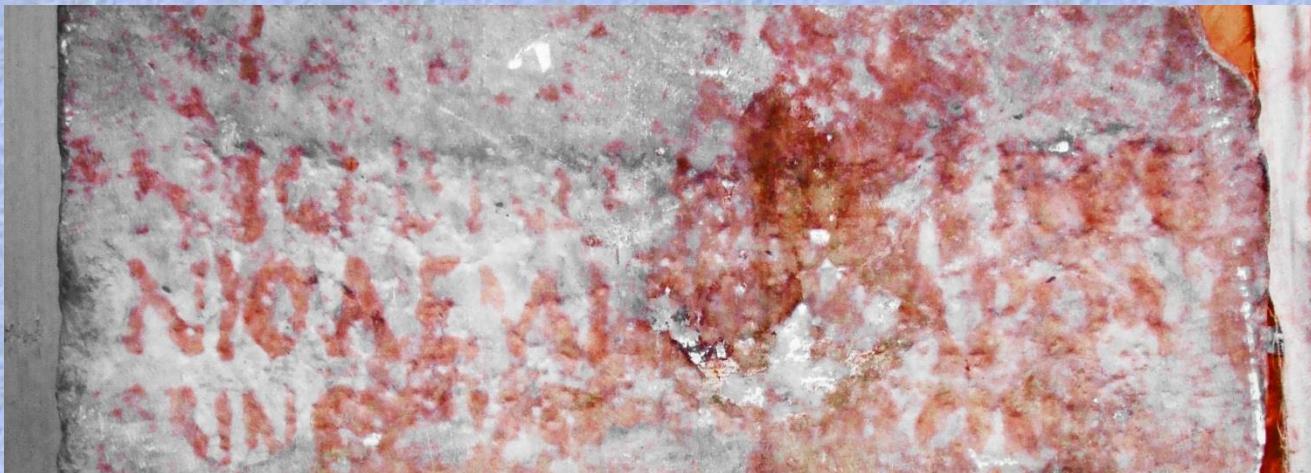
3) Vibrance enhancement:  
Image>Adjustments>Vibrance;  
Vibrance value set at +100



**Image editing**  
Main steps followed with  
Adobe® Photoshop® CS5



Edited photograph  
Front face of the base



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«*nio* +*n*+[- c.3 - C?]e<sup>r</sup>vo»=

«*nio Aemi[lio] Papo V*»+=

«++*inio*+++-+ c.3 - +++++»[·]

5 [-----]

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**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