## 447: Embedding as a Physical Feature

**KM**: does this allow to distinguish between a coin found lying on a surface (because that’s where it fell at some point and then was embedded in a stratigraphic layer from which it was excavated) and another that was dug into a surface (deliberately)? Does this embedding capture the difference?

There is no way to give the temporal aspect of the fact that the embedding of a coin happened 2000 y. later than the day it fell on the ground for instance. If we can retrieve this temporal information by other means, then it’s OK to change the definition of A7.

**MD**: This information can be expressed through the stratigraphic genesis (A4) that gave rise to whatever stratigraphic unit (A8) one is interested in documenting

**AF**: the embedding is the result of the generation of the stratigraphic generation. The physical aspect is a characteristic of the stratigraphic layers, not of the state in which an object is found with respect to a given set of stratigraphic layers. The generation of a stratigraphic volume results in a certain condition. In an excavation, given that condition, you only record the state things are found in -that’s what the A7 Embedding described.

We can talk about stratigraphic units and the relation of objects found in an excavation bear with them –classes: A2, A3, A8. There is no need for yet another class to do so.

**KM**: Consider the Thera eruption: a coin has dropped to the floor in one of the houses, a pot is on the table and then the eruption happens and the house falls apart (on top of everything that was part of that particular household). The entire place is covered in dirt, materials used for building, volcanic ash. The pot and the coin we were talking about stand as the evidence of a period of interface; i.e. the time the volcano erupted and the walls came down covering the pot and the coin and the rest of what used to be the household.

**MD**: it’s the where in the volumes that the objects were found. If there is a coin stuck btw two layers (if it’s on the floor and the ceiling has fallen on it) then you would not typically use the class A7 Embedding to describe its location.

**GH**: Maybe real examples of things documented in the course of an excavation that could be modelled as instances of A7 Embedding should be consulted to ultimately resolve this issue. Do we have data that would be documented like that?

**AF**: he has not come across any data that would support the usefulness of A7, BUT he can consider a likely scenario. Objects found in a stratum; one could use embedding to document their relevant position/arrangement. That’s a status, not a place.

**MD**: If the A7 Embedding isA S20 Rigid Physical Feature, then it isA E53 Place, so you can get the relevant position. It has the same frame of reference as the stratigraphic unit.

**SdS**: A7 showcases that a volume lies within another volume (and other topological relations). We can construct the other relations, but A7 is intended as a shortcut class, it is useful because it trims down the actual relations required to express it. No reference to coordinates or 3D Models is needed. The full path would be difficult to implement.