

PREP SHOP

Robert Bain

I'm very pleased to have joined the excellent staff of preparators at the OI this year! I would like to thank Josh Tulisiak, Erin Bliss, and Cate Cescon for being excellent at their work and making my transition here so pleasant.

We are currently in the midst of several major projects. The Gallery Enhancement Project involves extensive redesign and reinstallation of galleries throughout the Museum. Josh, Erin, and Cate managed the enhancement of the Nubia Gallery before my arrival, and since then we have seen the Persia Gallery completely repainted and added additional ceiling light tracks. The East Gallery has also been repainted, with additional lighting in the Syro-Anatolian and Megiddo Galleries.

The Prep Shop also worked closely with Jean Evans, Kiersten Neumann, and our outside design team to completely rebuild and reinstall the Alishar and Amuq display cases including all new case furniture and many new object mounts. We also built a new plinth, pedestals, and walls for the Tayinat stones in the Syro-Anatolia Gallery and designed and built new text-panel displays.

As our Gallery Enhancement Project is ongoing, we have also been working with Foy Scalf and Emily Teeter to design and build our next special exhibition, *The Book of the Dead*. This involves extensive building, and we're very excited to see it finished.

As we finish *Book of the Dead*, we look forward to a busy year reinstalling much of the Museum as we begin to take delivery of all new exhibition cases.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone here for welcoming me into the OI family. Thank you!
