

REGISTRATION

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We continue to add more data to the object-related parts of the Integrated Database (IDB) and to improve the data already there. This year we have tried to get as many images as possible into the IDB. Susan has finished adding the backlog of digital images taken by the registrars in the last few years (some 3,600 images). Helen finished collecting information on each group of images taken by visiting researchers in the last ten years and has been handing them over to Foy Scalf and his team of volunteers, who have then added them to the IDB. Museum Registration would like to express its gratitude to Foy and his volunteers not just for this, but also for their progress in scanning and adding the original registration cards to the IDB. Cards for objects A1 to A20000 are now in the IDB. In addition, we have now modified our registration process so that anyone registering material also takes a record shot of every newly registered sherd or object and adds that to the IDB as part of the input process. A new camera allows both a JPEG and RAW format files to be taken at the same time; the JPEG goes into the IDB and the RAW file is archived. Some 36,000 registration and tablet card scans and registration images have now been added to the IDB.

One of the ways we have used the IDB this year has been to inventory the (soon-to-be-accessioned) Aqaba material that was excavated by Donald Whitcomb in Jordan between 1986 and 1993. The Aqaba material here at the Oriental Institute comprises both loan material (which will return to Jordan) and material that has been gifted to the OI. The excavations were conducted in the BC era (Before Computerization), so at present there is no site database, just a series of paper records. We realized that we could put temporary records (for which we use the prefix “T”) into the IDB for each of the Aqaba field registration numbers and assign temporary numbers to the storage boxes holding the Aqaba sherds and objects, a small portion of which is a study loan from Jordan. The records could also be exported (initially to a spreadsheet like Excel) for the excavator to use and could also later be repurposed by Museum Registration when it came to register material into the collection. At present almost 6,500 Aqaba temporary records have been added and 194 new temporary storage boxes inventoried and the locations of their contents added to the IDB.

A large number of objects have been on the move for a variety of photography projects this year and Assistant Registrar Susan Allison has been particularly active in this regard. Objects have continued to be photographed for the Nubian publications in preparation (Bruce Williams’ *Serra* and Lisa Heidorn’s *Dorginarti* volumes) and for the Achemenet website (Persepolis objects). Objects have also moved to be photographed for the forthcoming highlights books.

Although we had only about half as many visiting researchers this year than last year, some of this year’s visitors were looking at large quantities of material. (Thirty-three visitors came last year, seventeen this year.) In fact we moved over two and half times as many objects for research/analysis this year than we did last year (see below for numbers). As well as involving a larger number of objects, some visits required additional preparation. For instance, a cabinet full of beveled-rim bowls from Chogha Mish was registered in preparation for the visit of Arianna Stimpfl. When Miki Takehiro came to study all the Tall-i Bakun ceramics (150 pots and 3,600 sherds), we took the opportunity to rehouse, rebag, and relabel the complete pots. Katharina Streit (one of the collections research grantees) made two visits. in December

she came to make a selection of Amuq sherds for her project. Many were unregistered Kurdu sherds, so those were registered and photographed in time for her second visit in February to carry out p-XRF (portable x-ray fluorescence) analysis on both these sherds and a selection from Research Associate Yorke Rowan's excavations at Ein el Jarba (on loan from the Israel Antiquities Authority). The visit of Raphael Angevin involved inventory and some rehousing (he studied almost 3,000 objects).

We began to look ahead to planning further unpacking of the collection as there are objects still packed up from the renovation more than ten years ago. In summer 2014 we carried out an inventory of our temporary storage boxes (TSBs) to update their locations and check on how many had been emptied. By the end of this process we had established that we still have around 1,490 boxes to unpack; we updated the locations of just over 300 boxes. Nearly 1,200 boxes contain unregistered material leaving just over 190 boxes that contained (at least some) registered material. In total some 550 registered objects are still packed, but to put that in context we have a total of 246,000 registered objects so that it is less than 1 percent.

With regard to incoming loans, in January the special exhibit *In Remembrance of Me* was dismantled and loans returned to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Penn Museum, and the Haitian artist Kesler Pierre. The next special exhibit, *A Cosmopolitan City*, was installed in February with three loan objects from the Walters Art Museum, Baltimore, including the fragile wooden door panel from the Ben-Ezra synagogue. Incoming loans always involve Museum Registration organizing object shipping/transport and courier travel and accommodation. For outgoing loans the registrars are involved in drafting the loan contracts and communicating with the borrowing institutions as to conditions, shipping, and other organizational aspects.

With regard to outgoing loans this year we have had quite a lot to do with the Institute for the Study of the Ancient World (ISAW, New York). Two objects on loan there for the exhibit *When the Greeks Ruled Egypt*, which had traveled from the Art Institute of Chicago to ISAW, came back to us. This loan included the Arsinoe statue base that is now back on display in the Egyptian Gallery (OIM E10518). Then we lent ten Diyala objects and a selection of archival excavation records to the ISAW exhibit *From Ancient to Modern: Archaeology and Aesthetics*, which ran from February to June. An Islamic book binding (OIM A12151B-C) is currently on loan to the recently installed Islamic gallery at the Art Institute of Chicago.

This spring some Chogha Mish materials, on long-term loan to the OI, were returned to Iran with Oriental Institute Director Gil Stein acting as courier. Museum Registration's role in this case was to make lists, do inventory, check numbers, make the material available for condition photography, sort out valuations, and take out transit insurance.

We have renewed a number of outgoing loans for between a year and three years. These include: two objects (an A-Group Nubian pot and a ushebti) to the DuSable Museum of African American History (for one more year, to June 2016); a loan to the Michael C. Carlos Museum at Emory University for some Mesopotamian, mostly Diyala, objects (three more years); some pots from the Tut cache that are on loan to the Penn Museum (one more year), and three tablets to the Adler Planetarium (three years). Two objects on loan from the Art Institute are on display in our Egyptian Gallery.

On campus we have lent objects to the Chicago Booth School of Business for a mini-exhibit in their lobby on business in the ancient world. Several loans for analysis were returned including samples taken from Dorginarti crucibles, Megiddo human teeth, and plaster fragments from Qasr el-Wizz that all went out in the previous year. This year we have received

a loan request from Tristan Carter (McMaster University, Canada) to borrow a selection of obsidian tools from various Amuq sites for XRF analysis. These tools are currently being prepared for loan. This is part of an ongoing project of obsidian analysis and sourcing that has previously borrowed and analyzed Abu Hureyra obsidian from the Museum collection and is being carried out with the involvement of Yorke Rowan.

In September we had a visit from the staff of Guenschel — the company that manufactured our larger display cases — to make adjustments to the locking mechanisms of those cases. Museum Registration was also involved in a Young Professional Leaders event in October (a sandbox excavation where a museum registration card was filled out for each “discovered” object) and a Breasted Society event in December with tours of object storage. Recently we have done storage tours for new OI docents and the Graham School summer class for high school students, called *Insight: Ancient Egyptian Language, Culture, and History*.

The Registration Department has moved or inventoried over 32,300 objects this year (making a total of almost 50,000 object movements). Just under 4,000 objects had their locations updated, checked, or corrected. Over 8,000 objects have been registered and twenty-three temporary storage boxes of sherds were unpacked, registered, and rehoused. Just over 10,800 objects were the subject of research of all kinds (as opposed to 4,500 last year). Around 1,150 objects were moved for photography of various sorts and around 250 objects were moved for temporary exhibits that were installed, dismantled, or in preparation. Just over 1,770 objects were moved for the various Nubian publications in preparation and around 470 were moved relating to various loans.

Visiting Researchers

- Jacob Lauinger (NELC PhD, Johns Hopkins University), epigrapher for the Tayinat expedition, came in to collate the cuneiform inscriptions on the Neo-Assyrian basalt stela fragments. The fragments will be published in a future article and appear in a Tayinat volume on the cuneiform texts found by Chicago’s Syrian Hittite Expedition and the current Toronto excavations (July)
- Sue Goldschmidt (Westminster College, London) studied incantation bowls (August)
- Tevfik Emre Şerifoğlu (Fulbright scholar, University of Bitlis, Turkey) came for three months to study Robert McC. Adams’ Akkad survey sherds and Alishar ceramic material, as well as archival records (July–September)
- Oliver Watson (Khalili Research Centre, Oxford) came to examine Islamic sherds from Rayy and Istakhr (October)
- Katharina Schmidt (Ludwig-Maximilian University, Munich) studied first-millennium BC glass from Khorsabad, Persepolis, and Megiddo (October)
- Jennifer Jackson (Tayinat Archaeological Project) made a visit to plan the photography of Tayinat material for the forthcoming publication (November)
- Mark Weeden (School of Oriental and African Studies, London) studied inscribed material from Tell Tayinat (November)
- Tristan Carter (McMaster University, Canada) study visit to select Amuq obsidian for an analysis loan request (December)
- Arianna Stimpfl (University of New York at Binghamton) studied beveled-rim bowls from several sites (January)

- Petros Koutoupis (independent researcher) made short visits to look at pots relating to the Hyksos period (October and January)
- Solene Klein (Oxford University) studied all of our canopic jars for her PhD (January/February)
- Katharina Streit (Hebrew University, Jerusalem; one of the collections research grantees) made two visits, one to select Amuq sherds for study/analysis and the second to carry out p-XRF analysis on both Amuq sherds from the OI collection and Ein el Jarba sherds here on loan from the Israel Antiquities Authority (December and February)
- Miki Takehiro (University of Tokyo) studied the ceramics from Tall i-Bakun (February/March)
- Emilie Badel studied bitumen from a variety of sites (March)
- Raphael Angevin studied a variety of chipped stone from Megiddo, Diyala, Nippur, Bismaya, and the Amuq sites for his PhD (March)
- Elisa Rossberger (University of Munich) studied material from Ishchali (Diyala) and Nippur, particularly terra-cotta plaques (335 objects studied in April)
- Marina Rustow (Johns Hopkins) made a brief visit and looked at some manuscripts referenced in *A Cosmopolitan City* (May)
- Yael Rotem (Hebrew University, Jerusalem) studied material from Nahal Tabor (May)
- Mark Altaweel (University College London) and Chikako Watanabe (Osaka-Gakuin College, Japan) carried out p-XRF analysis of tablets and sealings (November and May, the latter visit with Dr. Tuji, who conducted microscopic examination of the tablets)
- Elon Heymans (Tel Aviv University; one of the collections research grantees) joined us to carry out an in-depth study of the silver fragments in two Megiddo hoards (A18295 and A23919) (May)
- Samra Azarnouche (École Pratique des Hautes Études, Sorbonne, Paris) dropped in to have a quick look at a selection of Sasanian seals with a view to further study (May)
- Orlene McIlpatrick (British Institute at Ankara) came to carry out p-XRF analysis on Iron Age sherds from Alishar using the Conservation Lab's Bruker Tracer III-SD (June)

Oriental Institute Faculty, Staff, Researchers, and Students

- Natasha Ayers (NELC grad student) has been down to check on details of Assasif pottery for a project with Christine Lilyquist. She borrowed a drawer of Mendes sherds for a Public Education drawing class and has been drawing Serra objects for Bruce Williams' forthcoming publication of that site
- Brian Muhs (faculty) collated the gardening inscription on jar MH Ostraca no. 4038 (field reg. no. MH 29.349) for colleague Sven Vleeming (July)
- Tasha Vorderstrasse (research associate) completed work on the Fustat objects (for the special exhibit *A Cosmopolitan City*) and she has also continued to work with us as a volunteer registering Islamic sherd material. She is also working on a publication of coins from the Amuq sites

- Lisa Heidorn (research associate) has continued to work on the Nubian site of Dorginarti for a publication. A selection of crucible fragments from the site returned from being on loan for analysis
- Karen Wilson (research associate) has completed work on the publication of the Inanna temple sounding at Nippur with McGuire Gibson, Richard Zettler, Jean Evans, and others and is working on a volume on the Kish material in the Field Museum with collaborators there
- Bruce Williams (research associate) has continued to work on Serra material for forthcoming publications
- Carol Meyer (research associate) has joined us from time to time to draw Serra and other Nubian material and to study glass objects
- Tytus Mikołajczak (NELC grad student) has continued to study material from Persepolis as part of the Achemenet project headed by Pierre Briant of Paris (see Achemenet project report)
- Jack Green (OI Museum chief curator) used a small selection of objects for a museum studies class in January
- Foy Scalf (staff) used a selection of scarabs for a Public Education class on reading hieroglyphs in February
- Brian Muhs (faculty) used three Demotic papyri for a class in the spring term (OIM E25255, 25388, and 25262).
- Donald Whitcomb (research associate) borrowed some Islamic sherds from the site of Samarra for a class in April
- Nadine Moeller (faculty) used a variety of pots for a class on Old Kingdom pottery in January
- Nadine Moeller's students studied and wrote papers that included a variety of Museum objects in the spring term for a Middle Kingdom archaeology class as follows: Ariel Singer (Middle Kingdom stela); Sasha Rohret (bronze mirror), Emilie Sarrazin (Pan-grave material), Kierra Foley (wands for this class and Old Kingdom amulets for a class paper in the winter term) (Emily Teeter assisted with the class)
- Rachel Schine (University of Chicago student) gave a special gallery tour for Chabad House that included a viewing of some extra Genizah manuscripts brought up to the gallery for the event (November)
- Annalisa Azzoni (research associate) has continued to study a selection of



Figure 14. High school students (seated) from left to right: Umut Deniz Dinç, Emily Katsiff, and Elle Cramer with their instructor, NELC graduate student Rozenn Bailleul-LeSuer, standing at right, and Registrar Helen McDonald at left. The students came in for an afternoon of labeling and inventory of sherds as part of a course organized by the Graham School

sherds with inked Aramaic inscriptions

- François Gaudard (research associate) studied Egyptian shrouds for a forthcoming publication (spring 2015).

Our volunteers, interns, and work-study students have all been busy this year. Kierra Foley has registered Egyptian flints and beveled-rim bowls and has photographed obsidian tools and Qustul sherds. Following her retirement as volunteer coordinator, Terry Friedman joined us to register Nippur sherds that are being published in the forthcoming volume on the Inanna Temple sounding. Anna Moss joined us for the autumn and registered Alishar Iron Age sherds. Daila Shefner continued to inventory and label recently registered material, but has injured her shoulder and so has not been with us for a few months; we wish her all the best. Toni Smith finished registering those Dorginarti sherds and objects that are to appear in the forthcoming publication, moved on to Qustul sherds, and is now registering Nippur tablet casts for the tablet collection. O. J. Sopranos has continued to register Tell es-Sweyhat sherds (Syria) from Tom Holland's published excavations at the site. Tasha Vorderstrasse has continued with the putting of records relating to Erich Schmidt's aerial survey sherd registrations.

Museum Registration has had the assistance of two MA work-study students this academic year: Kathleen Cescon has been busy with the inventory of the Aqaba material and Jordan Galczynski completed the registration of all the sherds from the Chalcolithic site of Tepe Sohz (Iran) and has now moved on to the Behbahan survey sherds. Angela Spidalette joined us as summer intern in 2014. She carried out much of the inventory of temporary storage boxes and registered a variety of material including Nahal Tabor pottery and Nippur tablet casts. Angela also checked the proofs of the Geser publication against the objects and pots to make sure that all the registration numbers were correct and did an inventory of the Geser objects. This summer we have been joined by Danielle Morgan Zwang (Columbia University), who is presently busy registering the last of the Nahal Tabor sherds before moving on to other projects that will include the rehousing and relabeling of the Geser pots and objects. Once again it has again been a busy and productive year.



Figure 15. Volunteer and NELC graduate student Kierra Foley labeling Nubian pot sherds