

REGISTRATION

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The Gallery Enhancement Project has continued this year and was covered in more detail in the general Museum Section of the *Annual Report*. Depending on time and object availability we are trying to take the opportunity to measure and take record shots of some of the objects from display while they are off display.

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 continued to take digital photographs of newly registered material for inclusion in the IDB. We have also started the long process of taking images of previously registered material starting with the smaller Egyptian objects. Some 13,000 images have been added to the IDB in the last year; 4,000 of newly registered items, the rest of already registered material. Once again Museum Registration would also like to express its gratitude to Foy and his volunteers in scanning the original registration cards and the accession records. All of the object registration cards are now scanned and added to the IDB, as well as all of the accession cards and files.

The Axiell company (responsible for the software used for the OI's Integrated database) is offering a new module to hold information on objects being used for a particular exhibit; information that is additional to the usual catalog information. Last year a few of us went to



Figure 1a-c. A tale/tail with a happy ending — a fragment of stone was being imaged as part of the project to assign temporary numbers to a small number of unidentified Egyptian collection pieces (top) when work study student Catie Witt noticed that it had scales painted on it. Doing a search for all Egyptian crocodile figurines, she found that one had a note in its description field referring to a missing tail and both pieces were fitted together (bottom); Catie with the figurine (left) (photos: Helen McDonald)

the Field Museum to see how they were using this new module. It was then decided that the OI would use it too, and so we would need our own specific modifications. The Associate Registrar has worked closely with the different sections of the Museum involved in special exhibits to come up with tab designs for the different departments and has consulted with Foy Scalf, the administrator of the IDB. Susan has written a narrative to explain the tab designs which is now being read and modified by Foy. It is hoped to submit both tab designs and narrative to Axiell later this year.

The Associate Registrar has also completed the registration the textiles from Semna South (Nubia) after their rehousing by Conservation last summer. Research associate Kathryn Bandy has been digitizing some of the drawings of Semna seal designs and the Registrar has drawn a small selection of sealing backs. All of this information will be making its way into the Semna South final report currently in preparation by Joan Zabkar (widow of Louis Zabkar, excavator of Semna South).

Preparations for the next special exhibit on the Egyptian Book of the Dead, with guest curator Foy Scalf and special exhibits curator Emily Teeter, is well underway and will include an incoming loan from the Field Museum.

The barrel cylinder (A17587) on loan to the UPenn Museum for the exhibit The Golden Age of King Midas returned in November with the Registrar acting as courier. A long term loan of Egyptian pots to The Field Museum was returned to us in August. We lent a selection of pots from the Bronze age site of Bab edh-Dhra (Jordan) to the Neubauer Collegium on campus for an exhibit titled, The Past Sold: Case Studies in the Movement of Archaeological Objects, curated by OI Research Associate Morag Kersel (April/May). Also on campus we renewed a loan to the Chicago Booth School of Business for a case in their lobby on Business in the Ancient World for a further year. In February the Registrar and the head of Conservation attended a training event on fine arts loss and prevention organized by the Risk Management department of the University. At the time of writing Registration and Conservation are busy preparing over 100 Nubian beads for an analysis loan to the Field Museum later this year. The beads will be analyzed using laser ablation (LA-ICP-MS) by Laure Dussubieux and the information will be included in the OINE volume on Nubian beads currently in preparation by Joanna Then-Obluska.

The Registration department has moved or inventoried over 22,000 objects this year (making a total of over 37,500 object movements). Just over 9,300 objects had their locations changed, updated, checked or corrected, and a further 6,000 were put away (we are making an effort to empty transit cabinets to make room for objects from display as the Gallery Enhancement Project intensifies). Around 3,500 objects have been registered and 9 temporary storage boxes were unpacked, registered and rehoused. 50 drawers of sherds and just over 470 individual objects and were the subject of research of all kinds. Around 2,300 objects were moved for photography of various sorts and nearly 450 objects were moved as part of the gallery renovations.

Visiting Researchers

- Hanna Sosnowska (UCL Institute of Archaeology, London) visited in summer 2016 to study obsidian tools from Jarmo (Iraq) for her PhD research. She has returned in summer 2017 to study flint tools from Jarmo (June to September)
- Yoshifumi Yasuoka (University of Tokyo) scanned a couple of our Egyptian trial pieces (July)

- Delphine Poinot (PhD candidate, École Pratique des Hautes Études, Paris, France) studied Sasanian seals which were also scanned by the PTM lab (August)
- Aleksandra Hallmann (Polish Academy of Sciences) visited August 2016 to study textiles on Egyptian wood models and statues
- In September Jamie Szudy came to study the few Khorsabad arrowheads in our collection for the publication of his PhD on archery equipment in the Neo-Assyrian period (PhD from the University of Vienna, Austria in 2015)
- Amy Richardson (Wainwright Post-Doctoral Research Fellow based at the Oriental Institute, Oxford, UK) visited to study beads from Braidwood excavations including Jarmo (October/November)
- Fiona Haughey (draughtsperson of the current Tayinat excavations) came to draw Tayinat material for the final report on the Middle Bronze and later levels (November/December)
- Alexander Illin-Tomich (Johannes Gutenberg University-Egyptian scarabs) studied Middle Kingdom scarabs (December)
- Sabiha Gölöğlü (Department of Archaeology and History of Art, Koç University, Istanbul, Turkey) came to study a few Arabic manuscripts in the collection that relate to the subject of her PhD: Eighteenth- and Nineteenth-Century Representations of the Islamic Pilgrimage Sites in the Ottoman Empire. (March)
- Sarah Clegg (Post-Doctoral Researcher at the Weight and Value project at Copenhagen University, Denmark) came to study weights from the Diyala sites (March)
- Émilie Pagé-Perron (PhD Candidate, Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations University of Toronto) visited the OI to study Bismaya tablets in the tablet room, also joined us in Museum Registration to study other inscribed objects from the site (April)
- Petra Sijpesteijn (University of Leiden, Netherlands) visited to study various Arabic papyri in April
- Mitra Panahipour studied sherds from the Schmidt aerial survey of Iran in June (PhD candidate, Department of Anthropology, University of Arkansas)
- Lauren King visited to study objects with bull imagery from Persepolis in June (Southern Methodist University, undergraduate thesis).

Classes and Special Events

- Rozenn Bailleul-LeSuer (in house-animal mummies for high school class, summer 2016)
- Natasha Ayers used Mendes sherds for a drawing class (March).
- Foy Scalf, an evening visit for the class he was teaching at Dominican University on “History of the Text: Early Books and Manuscripts Up to the Age of the Printing Press” to look at a variety of texts (February)
- Susanne Paulus’ class came down to look at an inscribed stone vessel fragment (January)

- Fred Donner Arabic papyri class (spring term). As well as the class itself various students took the opportunity to come in and spend time with their chosen papyri
- Catharine Kearns (Anthropology Department) and some of her students came in to look at Cypriot sherds in preparation for a summer excavating in Cyprus (May)
- Museum registration was in attendance for the Breasted event as it included a fragment of a water clock from storage for Prof. Robert Ritner's talk on water clocks (April 13)

Oriental Institute Faculty, Staff, Researchers, and Students

- Lynn Welton (post-graduate) continued to study Early Bronze Age Amuq sherds from summer 2016 and on into summer 2017
- Grégory Marouard (Research Associate) examined a small selection of objects from Dendara in May
- Lisa Heidorn (Research Associate, Dorginarti publication, ongoing)
- Karen Wilson (Research Associate, Nippur and Abu Salabikh, ongoing)
- Bruce Williams (Research Associate, Serra publications, ongoing)
- Carol Meyer (Research Associate, drawing Serra and other Nubian material for publication and studying glass objects, ongoing)
- Tasha Vorderstrasse, (Research Associate, registering and working on Islamic material and the publication of the Islamic collection, ongoing)
- Susanne Paulus (Tablet curator) studied *kudurrus* for publication (August)
- Heidi Hilliker studied Egyptian spinning bowls in January and May
- Akiva Sanders looked at Amuq phase H and Alishar Chalcolithic sherds (February)
- Catie Witt has studied Egyptian headrests
- Drew Berlingame examined a variety of inscribed material (March)

Our volunteers, interns, and work study students have all been busy this year. Rozenn Bailleur-LeSuer has been adding bibliographic references from the Registration offprints collection. Terry Friedman has carried out inventory and labeling of recently registered material. Toni Smith finished the registration of Nippur tablet casts for the tablet collection and has moved on to Iron age sherds from Alishar. Jim Sopranos continues with the registration of Tell es-Sweyhat sherds (Syria) from Tom Holland's published excavations at the site. Tasha Vorderstrasse has continued to register Islamic material. In the summer of 2016 we had two summer interns. Tine Rassalle (The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill) who registered Megiddo human bone and photographed Megiddo small finds among other projects. Georgia Dixon (University of Chicago) registered an assortment of obsidian tools and Middle Bronze age sherds from Alishar. In the present academic year Museum Registration has had the assistance of work study student Catie Witt. She has carried out an assortment of tasks including the photography of small objects in the Egyptian collection and completed the registration of the Behbahan survey sherds (Iran). Once again it has been a busy and productive year.