

## REGISTRATION

### Helen McDonald and Susan Allison

The Gallery Enhancement Project to replace our smaller free-standing cases began this year (see *Museum*, above). Registration's main role in this project is to assist with the de-installation and reinstallation of the gallery display cases. We produce a list and labels for each object in a case. As Conservation and Preparation de-install the objects, Registration inventories and provides a label for the objects. Once the case is empty, we check the registration numbers on the case labels to make sure they match the numbers on the objects and in the database. When reinstallation is complete, we do another inventory to verify every object is back on 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 the registrars and their various helpers have continued to take digital photographs of newly registered material for inclusion in the IDB. Once again, Registration would also like to express its gratitude to Foy and his volunteers for their progress in scanning the original registration cards for the IDB. All the cards of the A Collection (Asiatic), C Collection (casts), and X Collection (areas outside the Near East, like the Aegean) are now scanned and in the IDB, and the E Collection (Egypt and Nubia) cards are in process. The assistant registrar has uploaded over 17,000 scans of registration cards into the IDB. Another Research Archives volunteer has been scanning our accession files which are then checked by the registrars; about half of them have now been scanned and added to the IDB as PDFs. The registrar has been scanning and uploading the permit to publish forms filled in by researchers. In total over 46,000 multimedia records relating to registration have been added to the IDB this year. Of these over 33,000 are registration card scans and more than 13,000 are images, 400 are scans of accession folders, and over 160 are scans of permit to publish applications.

A large number of objects have been on the move for a variety of photography projects this year and the assistant registrar has been particularly active in this regard. Photography for the Achemenet website (Persepolis objects) was completed and the material rehoused and relabeled before being put away. Objects have also moved to be photographed for the forthcoming Mesopotamian gallery guide, the highlights of the galleries guide, and now the Syro-Anatolian gallery guide.

The special exhibit "A Cosmopolitan City" was de-installed in September 2015, with three loan objects borrowed from the Walters Museum of Art (Baltimore), including the fragile wooden door panel from the Ben-Ezra synagogue, being returned. The publicity prompted a small gift of Fustat sherds from a team member of the Scanlon excavations, Erik Gronberg; these will be added to the sherd teaching collection.

Preparations for the next special exhibit on the Egyptian Book of the Dead with guest curator Foy Scalf and special exhibits curator Emily Teeter have begun. Nearly 200 objects have been pulled from museum storage and display for consideration in the exhibit. This phase of exhibit preparation is almost complete and the curators will soon have a preliminary object list.

Our Neferhotep statue (E8303) went out to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in September for a Middle Kingdom exhibit titled “Ancient Egypt Transformed: The Middle Kingdom,” and returned in February. Getting it on and off display involved a team of art handlers from Terry Dowd and a forklift. The loan of three astronomical tablets to the Adler Planetarium returned to us in January. Two objects on loan to the DuSable Museum of African American History returned (an A-group Nubian pot and an ushebti). Also in January a barrel cylinder (A17587) went out on loan to the Penn Museum for the exhibit “The Golden Age of King Midas.” At the same time some pots from the Tut embalmer’s cache on loan to the Penn Museum came back to us. There was a changeover of Islamic bookbindings on loan to the Art Institute of Chicago; one came back in November (A12151B–C) and was replaced by a different one (A12107). The Field Museum has been in touch with us about the return of some Egyptian pots on long-term loan from us; these are no longer on display and will return home sometime this year. We also assisted in a small way with an incoming tablet loan from the library at Northwestern University and the return of a tablet loan to the W. H. Over Museum in South Dakota (these loans were principally the business of the Tablet Collection). On campus we have renewed a loan to the Chicago Booth School of Business for a case in their lobby on “Business in the Ancient World.”

A loan of three hundred Amuq obsidian tools for XRF analysis went out in October to Tristan Carter of McMaster University, Canada. 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 OI Research Associate Yorke Rowan. Another project for analysis involved the pXRF analysis of around 450 Cypro-geometric sherds from some of the Amuq sites carried out by James Osborne and Steve Karacic (Oct/Nov and March).

The Registration Department has moved or inventoried over 16,000 objects this year (making a total of almost 21,000 object movements). Just under 4,000 objects had their locations updated, checked, or corrected. Over 6,800 objects have been registered and 23 temporary storage boxes of sherds were unpacked, registered, and rehoused. Just over 650 individual objects and 28 drawers of sherds were the subject of research of all kinds. Around 120 objects were moved for photography of various sorts. Over 230 individual objects and 55 containers of sherds were moved for teaching.



*Figure 1. Head of Conservation Laura D'Alessandro and art handlers from Terry Dowd removing the Neferhotep statue (OIM E8303) from display for a loan*

## Visiting Researchers

- Alex Tsakos (Athens, Greece, Serra publication, Bruce Williams' colleague, June 2015)
- Jakob Anderson (Uppsala University, inscribed objects from Nippur, Bismaya and Diyala, July 2015)
- Yael Rotem, collections grant recipient, (Tel Aviv University, Nahal Tabor material, October 2015)
- Martina Renzi (University College London, Qatar, Dorginarti metalwork, October 2015)
- Moujan Matin (University of Oxford, glazed Islamic sherds for possible analysis, November 2015)
- Erica Hunter (SOAS London, incantation bowls, November 2015)
- Liat Niah (The Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Fakhariyah ivories, December 2015)
- St. John Simpson (British Museum, Sasanian Istakhr material, December 2015)
- Peter Dorman (American University of Beirut, Egyptian textiles and pottery, December 2015)
- Alexandra Hallman (Polish Academy of Sciences, Egyptian textiles, January 2016)
- Frauke Pumpenmeier (LMU Munich, Kenamun ushebtis, February 2016)
- Roman Gundacker (University of Vienna, Egyptian false door, April 2016)
- Katerina Athanasaki (courier visiting the Field Museum from Greece, Cypriote sherds, April 2016)
- Henry Wright (University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, Late Uruk bottles from Nippur, May 2016)
- Irving Finkel (British Museum, gameboards, June 2016)
- Noha Abou-Khataf and Iman Abdulfattah (Mamluk Studies conference, University of Toronto, Arabic manuscripts, June 2016)

## Classes

- Natasha Ayers (sherd drawing evening class, September 2015)
- Morrie Fred and Jack Green (Museum class, October 2015)
- Sofia Torallas Tovar (Egyptian scripts class, October 2015)
- McGuire Gibson (Mesopotamian pottery class, Spring Quarter 2016)
- Brian Muhs (Middle Egyptian and Coptic classes, March 2016)
- Gil Stein and Belinda Monahan (Hacinebi/Gritille bone class, March 2016)
- Randy Silverman (Dominican University preservation class, Arabian Nights, October 2015)

## Oriental Institute Faculty, Staff, Researchers, and Students

- Foy Scalf (Gardiner papyrus publication, July 2015–March 2016)
- François Gaudard (Egyptian shrouds, March 2016)
- Annalisa Azzoni (Persepolis Fortification Archive Project, sherds with inked Aramaic inscriptions, ongoing)
- Tasha Vorderstrasse (Research Associate, collections grant recipient, museum registration volunteer registering Islamic material and working on a publication of coins from the Amuq sites, ongoing)
- 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)
- Tytus Mikołajczak (NELC PhD candidate, Achemenet project, headed by Pierre Briant of Paris, project ended December 2015)
- James Osborne and Steve Karacic (NELC faculty, Koç University; Amuq Cypro-geometric sherds for pXRF and NAA, Oct/Nov and March)

### Students Using the Collection

- Ariel Singer (Egyptian coffin for Middle Kingdom class, ARCE paper and stela publication, ongoing)
- Kierra Foley (Egyptian containers, ongoing since September 2015)
- Andrew Wright (Cypriote material, November 2015)
- Jordan Galczynski (MA thesis, Hathor banners, November 2015)
- Lynn Welton (post-grad, studying Amuq pottery, ongoing since January 2016)
- Nicholas Posegay (Quran fragments, February 2016)
- Josh Cannon (PhD, 3D scanning of Alishar sherds, ongoing since April 2016)
- Melissa Horn (ivory figurine, May 2016)

Various students have written papers on our objects for the Middle Kingdom material culture class: in addition to Ariel Singer, mentioned above, Sasha Rohret, Emilie Sarrazin, and Kierra Foley; Sasha also wrote a paper on some Islamic objects for the Islamic archaeology class.

Our volunteers, interns, and work-study students have all been busy this year. Kierra Foley has registered sherds from Dorginarti and photographed obsidian tools for a loan. Terry Friedman continued to register Nippur sherds to be published in the forthcoming volume on the Inanna temple sounding. Toni Smith registered Nippur tablet casts for the tablet collection. Jim Sopranos continues to register Tell es-Sweyhat sherds (Syria) from Tom Holland's published excavations at the site. Tasha Vorderstrasse has continued with the registration of Islamic material. Museum Registration has had the assistance of two work-study students



*Figure 2. Summer intern Tine Rassalle registering a Megiddo skull*



*Figure 3. Tasha Vorderstrasse working on Islamic sherds from Alishar as part of her Collections Research Grant*

this academic year: Kathleen Cescon completed the inventory of the Aqaba material and then moved on to register sherds from Nippur and Alishar; Jordan Galcynzski continued with the registration of Behbahan (Iran) survey sherds, among other tasks. Danielle Morgan Zwang (Columbia University) joined us as summer intern in 2015. She registered the last of the Nahal Tabor sherds, rehoused and relabeled pots and objects from the site of Tall i-Geser, and helped us sort out, register, rehouse, and photograph three transit cabinets of miscellaneous material. This summer Tine Rassalle (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill) has joined us and is busy registering Megiddo human bones and sherds and photographing Megiddo small finds, among other projects. Assistant Registrar Susan Allison is currently working with Conservation on the registration of the textiles from Semna South (Nubia), described in more detail in the Conservation report. Once again it has been a busy and productive year.