

**Early Documentation
of
The First Collection of Egyptian Antiquities**

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□ Topics and research steps

- Building the first Egyptian collection in Egypt (Ezbakia Museum 1835, and Bulaq Museum, 1958).
- The multiple journeys of the collection of antiquities from a location to another, and its impact on the documentation matters.
- The early documentation system at Bulaq Museum “Analyzation and evaluation”.
- The Problems of early documentation.
- Analyzing the register books in order to identify the gabs
- Identifying the research matter.
- Research Methodology and trucks
 - Register Research
 - Object Research
 - Carrying out several research examples to create modules and suggest research trucks.
- Publishing the relevant studies cases
- Recommendations to the collection management, the curatorial staff and the scholars.

➤ Building the first Egyptian collection in Egypt (Ezbakia Museum)

- 1835, the first museum collection of Egyptian antiquities began after Mohamed Ali Pasha decree.
- 1851, the collection was transferred to the Citadel of Saladin, but had been regularly donated as diplomatic gifts.
- 1858, the first museum of Egyptian antiquities was open in Bulaq. Following the collection's rapid growths,
- 1890, it was transferred to Saray Ismail Pasha, and finally into the Egyptian Museum in Tahrir Square in 1902.

✓ The JdE: Journal d'Entere

The main register book of the Egyptian Antiquity collection since 1858 till present

N ^o d'index	Année de l'acquisition	Nation	Désignation du monument	Hauteur	N ^o d'index	Matériau	Observations	N ^o de l'album
1	D 1858	Schiste argileux	Figure d'Osiris debout, coiffé du signe, les bras collés au corps	0,40	3	S.R.	A bord. Monté provisoirement sur un socle de bois	38866 P19 54 a
2	D	id	Figure d'Osiris debout, coiffé de la partie supérieure du pharaon, sans plumes	0,70	3	S.R.	A bord	38859 P19 36 2
3	R	id	Figure de genre masculin debout les bras étendus d'Osiris	0,35	4	S.C.	Couffe X.C.	
4	D	Marbre grisâtre	Osiris agenouillé, coiffé du signe et du sceptre, tient devant elle la main d'Osiris	0,20	2	S.R.	A bord. Monté provisoirement sur un socle de bois	38867 P19 54 a
5	D	Schiste argileux	Figure d'Osiris assis	0,25	4	S.R.	Couffe X.AV	38879 P19 54 =
6	D	id	Figure d'Osiris debout	0,25	4	S.R.	Couffe X.C.	38875 P19 54 =
7	D	id	Figure d'Osiris debout, avec ligende au nom de Kheops, fils de Ousor (Cheops)	0,25	4	S.R.	Couffe X.C.	38881
8	D	id	Figure d'Osiris assis	0,25	4	S.R.	Couffe X.AV	38877 P19 54 =
9	D	id	Figure d'Osiris debout	0,25	4	S.R.	Couffe A.XX. Obj. E.I	38879 P19 54 B
10	D	id	Figure d'Osiris debout	0,21	4	S.R.	Couffe X.XX	38884 P19 54 B
11	D	id	Figure d'Osiris assis	0,20	4	S.R.	Couffe X.B.C.	38885 P19 54 B
12	D	Marbre gris	Figure d'Osiris assis	0,15	5	S.R.	Couffe B.BC. Obj. E.I	38892 P19 54 B
13	D	Schiste argileux	Figure d'Osiris debout	0,27	5	S.R.	Couffe X.XX. Obj. E.I	38888 P19 54 B
14	D	id	Une autre	0,13	5	S.R.	Couffe X.AV	38894 P19 54 B
15	D	id	Une autre	0,13	5	S.R.	Couffe X.AV. Obj. E.I	38896 P19 54 B
16	D	id	Figure d'Osiris assis	0,21	6	S.R.	Couffe X.C. Obj. E.I	39282 P19 54 B
17	D	id	Une autre	0,16	4	S.R.	Couffe X.U	39259 P19 54 B
18	D	id	Une autre	0,15	5	S.R.	Couffe B.S	39283 P19 54 B











1st July 1858

The First page of the first register

Bulaq Museum, 1858

✓ The JdE: The main register book

example of the register sheets with very limited information, no pictures and in few cases, objects drawings were used. Where the provided data are not quite helpful to identify an object.

No. d'ordre	Lieu et date de la découverte	Station	Désignation du Monument						
3319	Gournah Dec. 1858.	Tome Bressi	Pucier en diverses couleurs 		0,19	4	S.C.	Boîte III. Usas ²⁰ / ₂₆ ¹¹ / ₂	
3320	id	id	Un autre semblable.		0,10	4	S.C.	id. Perhaps ¹³ / ₂₆ in Pag North, Cases	
3321	id	id	Un autre. Le couvercle manque		0,08	5	S.C.	id	
3322	id	id	Pucier de joue Bressi en une seule couleur contenant 14 fruits de dour.		0,26	5	S.C.	id.	
3323	id	Cuire jaune	Vase 	3488	0,12	5	S.C.	Boîte III. Rouais E.I.	3488
3324	id	id	Vase 		0,16	5	S.C.	id.	
3325	id	Albâtre	Vase avec de la poudre d'ambroisie 		0,05	5	S.C.	id	
3326	id	Terre cuite	Vase 	2492	0,09	5	S.C.	id	2492
3327	id	Granit noir	Vase 	18353	0,08	5	S.C.	id	18353
3328	id	Albâtre	Vase 	18299	0,08	5	S.C.	id	18299
3329	id	id	Vase 		0,12	4	S.C.	id	1825

❑ Research Matter

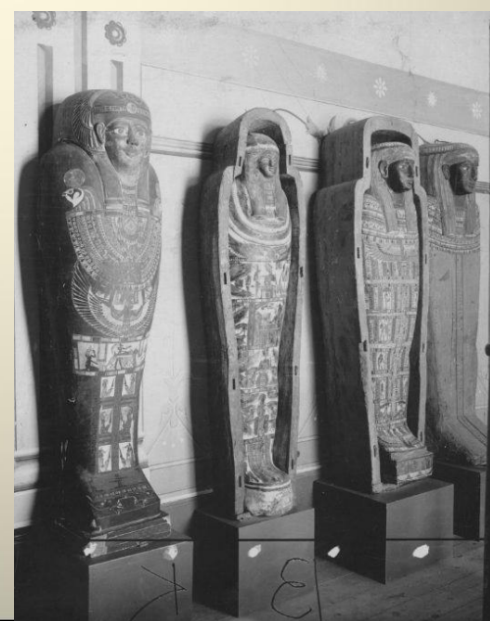
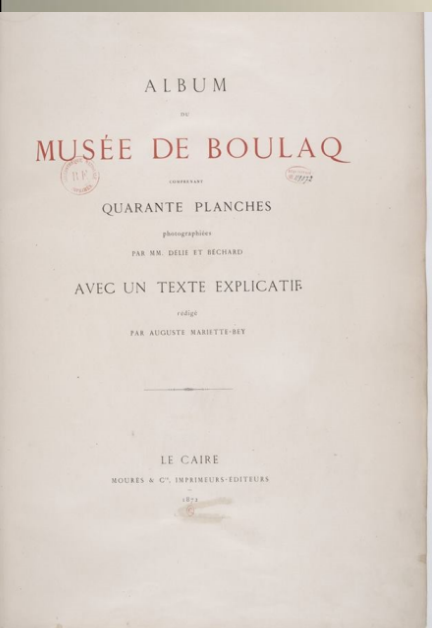
The Museum face difficulties to identify thousands of objects at the museum:

Because of

- Incomplete data, and missing photos.
- Common and abnormal mistakes of the early documentation
- Duplication of inventories (using multiple inventory system).
- Objects defined as “Lost location”.
- Objects without inventories, nor records or any relevant data.

Research Tools

- The Register Books.
- Object records (fishes, object files, any excavation data, etc.).
- The museum and the excavation missions Archives.
- Any early publications or reports



الرقم N ^o	الوصف Description	الموقع Lieu	التاريخ Date	الملاحظات Remarques	التصوير Photographie
1	Amulettes Amulettes en bronze	El-Mina El-Mina	1880	Amulettes en bronze de diverses formes et de diverses tailles trouvées à El-Mina en 1880	
2	Amulettes Amulettes en bronze	El-Mina El-Mina	1880	Amulettes en bronze de diverses formes et de diverses tailles trouvées à El-Mina en 1880	
3	Amulettes Amulettes en bronze	El-Mina El-Mina	1880	Amulettes en bronze de diverses formes et de diverses tailles trouvées à El-Mina en 1880	
4	Amulettes Amulettes en bronze	El-Mina El-Mina	1880	Amulettes en bronze de diverses formes et de diverses tailles trouvées à El-Mina en 1880	

□ Methodology, Research Trucks

- Register investigation:
 - ✓ Analyzing the registers to identify the gabs of documentations.
 - ✓ Carrying a survey to identify “the lost location objects”,
 - ✓ Researching “the First object groups came to the museum”.

- Object research:
 - ✓ A Random selection of stored objects which has no records nor acquisition numbers as “Study cases”.

- Preparation of publications resulting from research
 - Publishing study cases telling the story of retrieving the records, and emphasizing the importance of this research approach as a curatorial responsibility

➤ Object research

Selected objects of interest from storerooms which has no records nor acquisition numbers, nor data.

A process which started 2014/2015

Making a list of a certain selected objects and photographing them



➤ A coffin and cartonnage of Anonymous Person,

Interesting but

no records,

no provenance,

no numbers,

Very bad condition,

etc.



➤ Retrieving its archaeological record

by

corresponding the object to one page report was written in 1901, with a picture of the object during the discovery

After a long process of research on publications and archives



- **Leading parallel research**

- ✓ Investigate its statue, conserve, and reassemble the object
- ✓ Carrying out CT scan on the corpus
- ✓ Its manufacturing technique and decoration type, date,
- ✓ etc..

- ✓ Full Publication





AN ANONYMOUS COFFIN AND CARTONNAGE FROM LAHUN: RETRIEVING THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDS

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
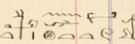

ABSTRACT

The publication of a coffin set, consisting of an anthropoid coffin and a cartonnage mummy-case, with a mummy, from Lahun. The coffin set, which was re-found in the basement of the Egyptian Museum in Cairo without inventory, represents the Northern provincial type of Middle Egypt and Fayum of the Third Intermediate to Late Periods. This study aims accordingly to retrieve its archaeological context by identifying its provincial type and date, putting the set and its archaeological records in context for the first time. In addition to a full publication, the article points out the importance of re-examining and republishing museum objects that were hastily published several decades ago. This comes in accordance with the approach of re-contextualizing the archaeological collections, and in particular, museum objects that have lost their original contexts and records.

Register investigation: The second research truck

Carrying out a survey on two main lines:

- “the lost location objects”,
- “the First ‘object groups’ came to the museum”.

N ^o d'ordre	Lieu et date de la découverte	Matériau	Désignation du Monument						
3305	Saggarat Porcel. Nov. 1858	Porcel.	Un jeune fœminaire à tête de cynocéphale, de la série enregistrée sous les N ^{os} 2457, 2468	0,02	6	S. F.	Couffe DE		
3306	Journaux Dec. 1858	Bois	Stèle peinte sur les deux faces. D'un côté un homme Ankh pe Akhrouti avec ses bras et sa ceinture et sa coiffe de disque. Le fond est blanc. De l'autre côté même représentation. Le fond est bleu. Bon style	0,27 long 0,20	4	S. F.	A bord. (Arnaise de mon cabinet - Série II. Vite les	Catal. Maspero (fiches), n^o 1223	P 22 E 3
3307	id	Bois	Stèle peinte sur une seule face. Deux registres. Au premier registre un personnage est debout devant Horus et trois jeunes des morts. Au deuxième registre formule ordinaire des stèles funéraires. La légende et le nom du défunt sont: 	haut 0,35 long 0,27	5	S. F.	A bord. Arnaise de mon cabinet. Série II	Catal. Maspero (fiches), n ^o 1223	P 22 W 2 ar
3308	Journaux Dec. 1858	Porcel. grise	Statuette funéraire à face rouge au nom de <u>Anneu-ou-hob</u>	0,14	5	S. F.	Couffe DE Série I. 47168		P 22 W 2 ar
3309	Karouak Dec. 1858	Calcaire	Plaque demi-circulaire avec 3 lignes d'hieroglyphes de bon style contenant les noms et titres d'un prêtre nommé <u>Mont-ou-ha</u>	rayon 0,04 diam 0,08	5	S. C.	Couffe DE Série II		Map 3010 R 35 W 2 ca
3310	Journaux Dec. 1858	Bois	Palette de scribe au nom de  En trois morceaux qui se rejoignent	0,37	5	S. C.	Couffe DE Série I. 69017		P 22 W 2 ca
3311	id	id	Écrin. Le dessous de la partie supérieure est orné de stèles de Typhon	long 0,31	5	S. C.	Couffe DE		P 22 W 3
3312	id	id	Statuette funéraire au nom de  Les hieroglyphes sont incrustés en pâte rose	0,16	5	S. F.	id	47236	P 22 S 2 br
3313	id	id		0,09	5	S. C.	id	47306	P 22 W 6

Reconceiving the Object Groups in the First Volume of the Journal d'Entrée:

“Reassembling the tomb of a woman named Bak (?) from Sheikh Abd el-Qurna”

*An ongoing research
article as a part of this
research topic*

An article compiles these groups firstly, but also is concentrating on the December 1858 Qurna items as a chapter in the history and continued importance of collections information in museum registers.

Till now I succeeded to identify the location of only 9 out of 22 objects in this object-group.



Research Objectives

- To identify and classify the gaps, mistakes and problems of the register books.
- To suggest practical solutions for the register books' gaps and problems.
- To present study cases as examples to assist curators and scholars to carry out their own research.
- To create Links between the museum and excavations archives to the objects.
- To emphasize the necessity of following a system for documenting the collection, gathering every possible and available piece of information.
- To emphasize the importance of the problem awareness among the curatorial staff.
- To suggest and spot light on new stories around the museum objects that might be told within the display.
- To emphasize the importance of primary reports and hastily publication.

Recommendations

Providing recommendation to

- Scholars,
- Curatorial staff, and
- the collection management depart.

Thank You

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