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

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.

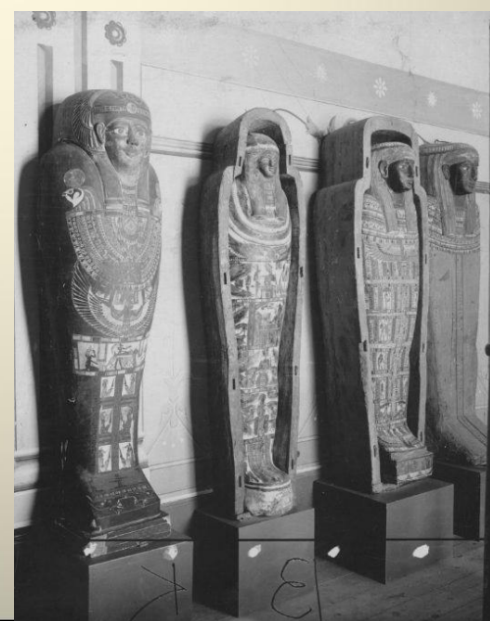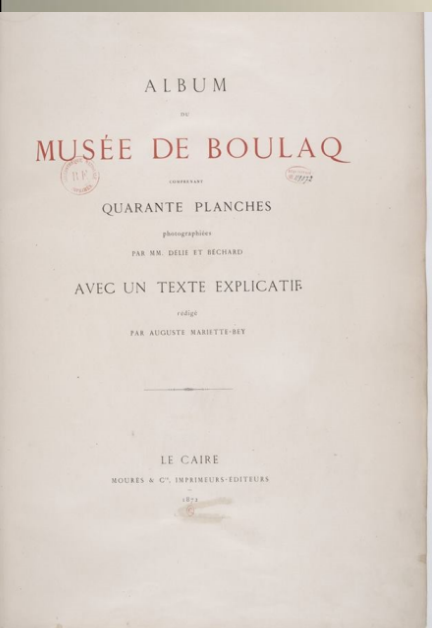| N°. d'ordre	Lieu et date de la découverte	Matière	Désignation du Monument					
3319	Gournah Déc. 1858.	Jonc tressé	Panier en diverses couleurs		0,19	4	S.C.	Boîte D.F. was
3320	id	id	Un autre semblable		0,10	4	S.C.	id. Perhaps
3321	id	id	Un autre. Le couvercle manque		0,08	5	S.C.	id
3322	id	id	Panier de jonc tressé en une seule couleur contenant 14 fruits de doum		Diam. 0,26	5	S.C.	id.
3323	id	Cuivre jaune	Vase	3488	0,12	5	S.C.	Boîte D.F. Armoire E.J. 3488
3324	id	id	Vase		Diam. 0,16	5	S.C.	id.
3325	id	Albâtre	Vase avec de la poudre d'antimoine		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	0,07	5	S.C.	id 18353
3328	id	Albâtre	Vase	18299	0,07	5	S.C.	id 18299

❑ 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

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 achieved research article as a part of this research topic

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

Mohamed Gamal Rashed
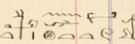Damietta University

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 additional 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".

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 gabs, mistakes and problems of the register books.

- To suggest practical solutions for the register books' gabs 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 emphasis the necessity of following a system for documenting the collection, gathering every possible and available piece of information.

- To emphasis 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 emphasis the importance of primary reports and hastily publication.

Recommendations

Providing recommendation to

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

Thank You

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