Representation Matters: Religion

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Museum Studies Praxis Fieldwork Seminar
Faculty Advisors: Monique Renee Scott and Matthew Feliz
Fieldsite: Bryn Mawr Special Collections
Fieldwork Supervisors: Carrie Robbins and Marianne Weldon

Goals and Deliverables of my Internship

● Help improve ways of tagging and searching for religious objects in Bryn Mawr’s Special Collections
● Keyword and write blurbs for sample objects within TriArte
● Write a series of instructions for keywording that can go in Special Collections’ Data Entry Standards document, using specific examples from my project

Processes of my Internship

1) Explore the digital collections of museums across the country and find out what works and what doesn’t for religious objects
2) Do the same thing with TriArte, the online database for the TriCo’s Special Collections
3) Combine the previous two steps to create and implement a plan for TriArte

Seated Buddha

Carved stone

12 3/4 in. x 6 1/2 in. x 3 in. (31.92 cm x 16.51 cm x 7.62 cm)
Gift of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia
Bryn Mawr College
Accession Number: 2006.2.8
Other Number(s): 34230 (the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia Number)
Geography: Asia, India
Classification: Fine and Visual Arts; Sculptures
Culture/Nationality: Indian
Collection: William S. Vaux Collection of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia

Keywords:
- Buddhism
- Hinduism
- Indian
- Mythology

This object has the following keywords:
- Religion and mythology

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Abraham Casting out Hagar and Ishmael

Engraving

Composition
20 in. x 16 in. (50.8 cm x 40.64 cm)
Gift of Richard E. Bishop in memory of Mary E. Harrington
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Accession Number: 2005.1.129
Classifications: Fine and Visual Arts; Prints; Engravings
Collection: Harrington-Bishop Collection

Keywords:
- Biblical
- Judaism
- Abraham

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Takeaways

● Word choice is incredibly important for cultural items
● Be wary of assumptions or biases
● Be as specific, respectful, and accurate as possible when keywording