

COLLECTIONS MANAGEMENT & ARCHIVAL PRESENCE: ACQUISITIONING GIBEON AT THE PENN MUSEUM

Museum Studies Praxis - Pearle Bromley, Class of 2028
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THE SITE IN CONTEXT

Gibeon, or el Jib, is an ancient city and archaeological site just Northwest of Jerusalem in the Palestinian territories. It is over 5,000 years old, with initial settlement dating back to the Early Bronze Age (c. 3300–2000 BCE), and is most famous for its presence in the Old Testament with it being the location where Joshua made a peace treaty with its inhabitants. It's excavation was led by James B.

Pritchard over five field seasons between 1956 and 1962. The majority of objects maintained by the museum of this site originate from tomb groups, and are most often ceramics, including oil lamps, jugs, bowls, etc.

COLLECTIONS MANAGEMENT

- Confirmation of Museum Numbers and Registration of Artifacts
- Shot-on & Shot-down Digital Photography of Artifacts
- Editing & Uploading of Photographs for Website Publication Completed by Supervisor
- Reorganization & Rehousing of Artifacts

PRAXIS COMPETENCIES

- **Social Responsibility:** When documenting & handling cultural objects it is vital that stewardship is emphasized. These objects hold great cultural value and should be shared with their communities and the public.
- **Cultural Competency:** It is important to learn about the cultural background of the objects; acknowledging their associated heritage and importance within modern-communities
- **Implementation:** It is additionally imperative that the collections process is conducted accurately and efficiently, so that objects are properly stored & accounted for



The Gibeon material from shelf 19J of the Near Eastern Storage Room; The left photo shows the artifacts prior to being ordered numerically for photography, the right shows them after organization.

GIBEON IN THE ARCHIVES

Like many other excavations conducted by UPenn, Gibeon maintains a vital place within the museum archives. Many aspects of the excavation have been preserved by the institute's archivists, including correspondence between archaeologists and administrators, field plans and drawings, historical maps, photographs of the excavation & more. This information places the artifacts handled in collections management into a greater historical context, highlighting how, when, why, and by whom they were excavated. Not only are the objects themselves of great importance, but so too are the records as to how they arrived in the collection.



Shot-on photography set-up for dimensional artifacts

Two field drawings of fragmented human figurines from the site; exemplars of the figurine photographed below

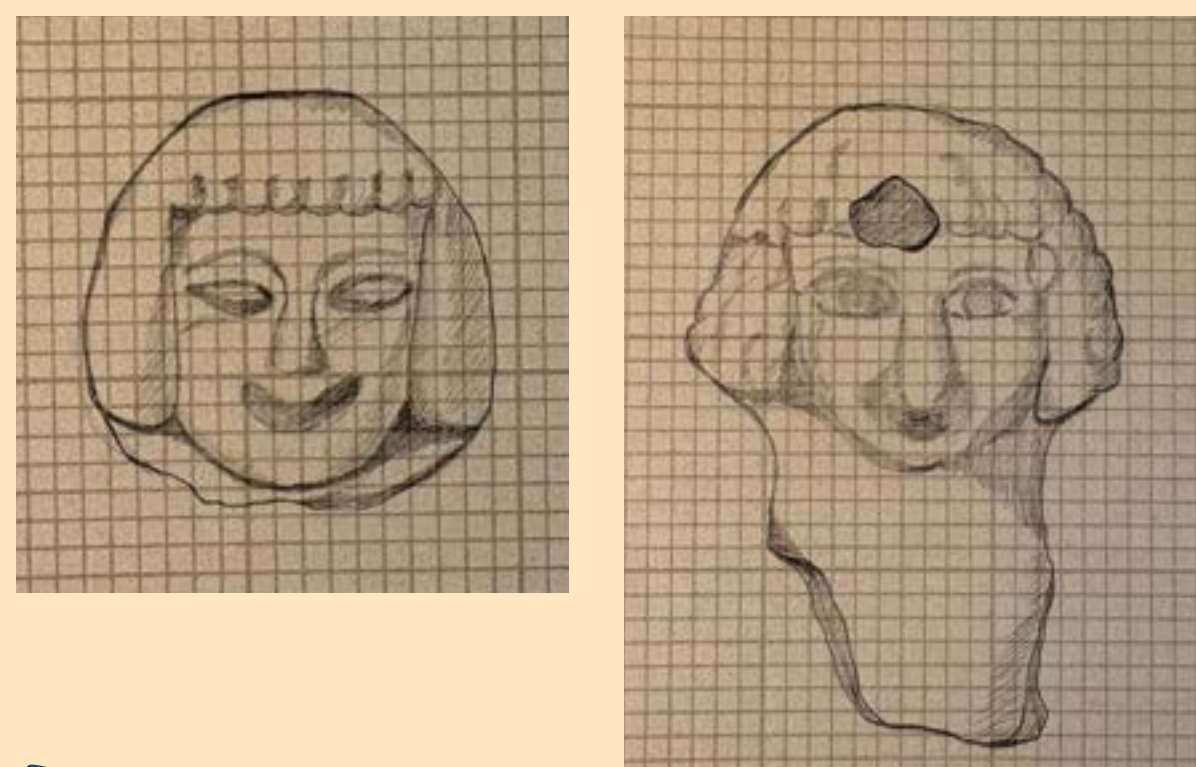


Photo of a fragmented molded-head alongside scale & museum number



1938 Survey Map of Historic Palestine identifying the archaeological sites considered for an excavation by UPenn

