

SPECIAL THANKS TO MY SUPERVISOR KATY BLANCHARD, PROFESSORS MONIQUE SCOTT AND SYLVIA HOUGHTLING, PRAXIS DIRECTOR NELL ANDERSON, AND CO-INTERNS JOY KRUSE

INTERNSHIP AT THE PENN MUSEUM: MUSEUM STUDIES FIELDWORK SEMINAR



PENNMUSEUM

JULIE KNOEPFLER

MY TASKS

MY MAJOR TASKS AT THE MUSEUM INCLUDED INVENTORYING, PHOTOGRAPHING AND LABELING/BAGGING OBJECTS FROM THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE OF BETH SHEAN IN THE LEVANT.

THIS POSTER HIGHLIGHTS SOME OF MY FAVORITE OBJECTS AND WHAT I'VE LEARNED FROM HANDLING THEM.



PICTURE OF ME WORKING ON A BOX MAKING PROJECT

WATER & AGRICULTURE



HERE IS A STRAINER I PHOTOGRAPHED WHICH KATY EXPLAINED WAS LIKELY USED TO MAKE BEER BY STRAINING OUT THE HOPS. IN MESOPOTAMIA REEDS WERE USED TO FILTER OUT HOPS, BUT DUE TO THE FACT REEDS DID NOT GROW IN THE LEVANT STRAINERS WERE NECESSARY.

HERE IS A PIPE THAT JOY AND I PHOTOGRAPHED. IT WAS LIKELY USED TO TRANSPORT WATER IN AN AGRICULTURAL OR URBAN CONTEXT, HIGHLIGHTING THE COMPLEX IRRIGATION/AQUEDUCT SYSTEM USED.



WRITING



HERE IS A CUNEIFORM TABLET FROM THE BABYLONIAN SECTION. IT IS SIMILAR TO THE TABLETS I PUT INTO LABELED BOXES AS PART OF A FUN SIDE PROJECT THAT KATY GAVE TO ME AND JOY. I GOT TO SEE THE CUNEIFORM WRITING SYSTEM IN ACTION.

HERE ARE SOME COLORFUL TILE FRAGMENTS FROM THE SITE, RAYY, IN IRAN. KATY POINTED OUT THAT ARABIC WRITING CAN BE SEEN ON SOME OF THESE KINDS OF TILES, LIKELY USED FOR A RELIGIOUS CONTEXT.



BRICK IMPRESSIONS



HERE IS A BRICK FROM UR IN IRAQ, THAT HAS AN IMPRESSION OF A DOG PRINT. I HELPED KATY PUT OBJECTS, LIKE THIS ONE, BACK INTO STORAGE AS ANOTHER ONE OF MY RESPONSIBILITIES AT THE MUSEUM.

HERE IS A BRICK WITH A HUMAN FOOTPRINT (ALSO FROM UR). IT IS THE FIRST OBJECT SEEN WHEN WALKING INTO THE MIDDLE EASTERN GALLERY IN THE MUSEUM. BOTH IMPRESSIONS ARE FASCINATING EXAMPLES OF "MAKING A MARK" WHICH WE STILL SEE TO THIS DAY.



CERAMICS



HERE IS A STAND I PHOTOGRAPHED WHICH WAS USED IN THE FIRING PROCESS OF MAKING POTTERY.

HERE ARE SOME SHERDS, ONE OF WHICH I PHOTOGRAPHED. THEY WERE PREVIOUSLY PART OF CERAMIC PIECES. KATY EXPLAINED HOW THE HOLES WERE MADE TO PUT CERAMICS SHERDS BACK TOGETHER WITH WIRE AFTER A PIECE HAD BROKEN.



TRIP TO NYC

ON OUR TRIP TO NEW YORK CITY, WE GOT TO SEE OBJECTS AT BOTH THE MET AND ISAW. WE ALSO LEARNED ABOUT CURATION, RENOVATION PLANNING, AND CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT.



PICTURE OF ME IN FRONT OF A LAMASSU FIGURE AT THE MET