

ANNUAL REPORT: MUSEOLOGY AND EGYPTIAN MATERIAL CULTURE *MUSEO EGIZIO, TURIN (ITALY), 2018*

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Field school student Whitney Yarbrough studies an ancient Egyptian wooden animal coffin in the collection of Museo Egizio

This field school provides students with broad insights in the workings of a modern museum ranging from administration, fundraising and outreach, to the preservation, handling and presentation of ancient artifacts. Students received instruction from the staff of both the field school and *Museo Egizio*, as well as from external experts in conservation and restoration. Several of these teaching sessions took place in selected galleries of the museum or in specialized conservation laboratories. Students were furthermore given the opportunity to handle and study ancient objects in the collection of the museum, including wooden and metal artifacts, and fragments of textiles and ceramic vessels. The understanding of these materials was enhanced by practical instruction in weaving, the reconstruction and drawing of ceramic vessels, painting with ground minerals, and playing the ancient game of *senet*. Students had daily interactions with graduate students doing research in Museo Egizio and, when feasible, were involved in special events taking place in the museum.

Next to instruction and hands-on work in Museo Egizio, a number of other museums in Turin were visited, often introduced with a guided tour, to investigate different approaches to issues concerning the conservation, presentation and appreciation of cultural heritage objects. These visits were followed by a focused discussion to enhance the experience and insights of the students.

The final product of the students, created either individually or by a group of 2–3 students. Each project was also presented in a short lecture, attended by some of the curators of the museum, and followed by a general and individual discussion of each project to improve the final version. All data were subsequently made available to Museo Egizio for future reference.