

People, Places, Projects

The Near Eastern Section recently received a grant from the Museum Loan Network, the University of Pennsylvania Museum's third MLN grant. The \$18,000 grant will be applied toward researching, documenting, and photographing a portion of the collections from Mesopotamia. This project's goal is to identify a corpus of material that represents a cross section of Mesopotamian history for future loans and inclusion in the MLN online directory (<http://loanet.mit.edu>).

The MLN supports the long-term loan of objects and artwork among institutions in the United States. Its goal is to strengthen museum exhibitions, enabling institutions to better represent and respond to the communities they serve.

Shannon C. White, Fowler–Van Santvoord Keeper, Near Eastern Section

WORLDS INTERTWINED. In March 2003, with fanfare and celebration, the Museum will inaugurate the major reinstallation of its Roman and Etruscan galleries and herald the completion of its nearly 10-year program to present its unique classical collections in a modern, thematic context. The opening of “Worlds Intertwined: Etruscans, Greeks, and Romans” will be celebrated with a triumphant gala organized by the Museum's Women's Committee on Saturday, March 15. A joyous public opening for visitors of all ages will take place on Sunday, March 16, featuring an



TOP: This late 2nd–3rd century A.D. marble loculus cover (MS 4017) represents a triumphal procession of the god Bacchus with his companions: a centaur, satyrs, maenads, cupids, and wild animals; BOTTOM: Core-formed glass bottle from the Kassite period, ca. 1600–1150 B.C. from Ur. The item was found under a pavement level, embedded in the brickwork of wall foundations of fragmentary houses.

encampment of soldiers from the XX Legion of the Roman Imperial Army in North America, a fashion show of ancient costume, theatrical vignettes, a display of the actual costumes and props from the film *Gladiator*, and much more. Special events for Museum Members will be held on the opening days and throughout the “Classical Year.” Check the Museum's Web site at www.museum.upenn.edu for a list of events, and please join us for the festivities.

Irene Bald Romano, coordinator and co-curator, Etruscan and Roman Exhibition Project



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