**New Acquisitions**

The American Section gratefully received 15 Pre-Columbian ceramic objects from the North Coast and Sierra of Peru, which were collected by Dr. Stuart G. Younkin during his business trips to Peru between 1961 to 1968. The vessels date from 1000 BCE–1430 CE and represent a wide range of vegetables, fruits, and animals native to the Andean region.

Younkin was an Iowa farm boy who studied horticulture and plant pathology, and received a Ph.D. in plant genetics from Cornell University in 1943. He was a lifelong employee of the Campbell Soup Company and served as Vice President of Agricultural Research for Campbell from 1961 until his retirement in 1977. Dr. Younkin passed away last year at the age of 103.

**New Gifts and Grants Support Museum Activities**

The Penn Museum is pleased to announce a lead commitment from the William B. Dietrich Foundation, and generous gifts from the PoGo Family Foundation and Jay and Gretchen Riley (W70 and CGS70, respectively), which will support the new Galleries of the Ancient Middle East, scheduled to open in fall 2017.

A multi-year commitment from new Overseer David A. Schwartz, M.D., will support *In the Artifact Lab*, the highly popular public conservation lab where visitors can watch and chat with Schwartz Project Conservator Molly Gleeson and her colleagues as they preserve ancient Egyptian mummies and funerary artifacts.

New grants from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, the Philadelphia Cultural Fund, and the Samuel P. Mandell Foundation will provide support for general operations. The Museum is deeply grateful to these and all individuals and institutions for support of its programs.
Museum Objects Travel the World

The Penn Museum currently has objects on loan to over 25 institutions in the United States and abroad. Here is a selection of just some of those objects.

1. ART OF THE ANCIENT AMERICAS
Princeton University Art Museum
Princeton, NJ
Permanent Gallery
Six objects from the American Section

2. EGYPTIAN GALLERY
American Museum of Natural History
New York, NY
Permanent Gallery
11 objects from Egyptian Section

3. MAYA: HIDDEN WORLDS REVEALED
Science Museum of Minnesota
Traveling Exhibition; venues in TX, WI, and UT
31 objects from the American Section

4. ROMAN MYTHS AND MYTH-MAKING
Jundt Museum
Spokane, WA
Opens September 17, closes December 17, 2016
51 objects from the Mediterranean Section

5. SLEIGHT OF HAND
Zuckerman Museum of Art
Kennesaw, GA
Opens September 10, closes December 4, 2016
One object from the African Section

Buddhist Murals Moved for Conservation

For the first time in nearly 90 years, two monumental Buddhist murals have been taken off display in the China Gallery in the Museum’s Rotunda temporarily. Fearing that vibration from the construction project at the neighboring University of Pennsylvania Health System might damage the vulnerable painted mud plaster, we decided to remove them to offsite storage for safekeeping and conservation while the Asian Galleries are renovated and redesigned. Two conservators, Emily Brown and Madeleine Neiman, worked over six months to prepare the murals for their removal. They based their treatment on an earlier conservation survey, funded by the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation and Michael Feng and Winnie Chin Feng, carried out to assess the current condition of the murals when small areas of instability were noticed.

The conservators used the survey information to determine which areas of the murals needed special attention before they could be removed. These areas were carefully cleaned, a strengthening agent was applied where needed, and some areas were faced with a non-woven textile for added support. The conservators did the cleaning first to ensure that surface dirt would not be carried into the mural structure with the conservation treatment, but everyone was quite startled to see just how dirty the murals had become. Time constraints meant that only those areas needing treatment could be cleaned at this time but we look forward to seeing the murals completely cleaned—as bright and colorful as they were meant to be—when they are reinstalled.

Planning for the actual removal was intense; there was very little information available on how the murals were mounted, how much the individual panels weighed, even the thickness of the panels was unknown. Stephen Lang, Lyons Keeper of Collections, Asian Section, dug through the Museum Archives and combed the internet for resources to aid the project. In the end, we had to proceed with the information we had.

Harry H. Gordon was brought in to rig the monumental panels off their 90-year-old wooden armature one at a time. An artist in his own right, Mr. Gordon worked closely with the conservators and Special Projects Manager, Bob Thurlow, to remove all 54 panels safely. Each panel was given its own specially made pallet-tray and these were removed to an art storage facility. In time, conservators will fully treat each painted surface and determine the best way to support the murals for their next century and beyond.

—Lynn Grant, Head Conservator

ABOVE: Conservators and riggers remove panels of the Buddhist murals.

ABOVE: Cleaned (left) and uncleaned areas (right) are evident in this detail photograph.
Recognition for CAAM Faculty and Students

Penn faculty and students associated with the Center for the Analysis of Archaeological Materials (CAAM) recently received well-deserved recognition for their work. Dr. Katherine Moore, Mainwaring Teaching Specialist, received the Dean’s Award for Distinguished Teaching by Affiliated Faculty. Dr. Chantel White (pictured here) received an Andrew W. Mellon Digital Humanities Fellowship for 2016–2017, as well as a Price Lab Project Incubation and Support Grant for her project “Archaeobotanical Digital Database of Foods, Herbs, and Spices.”

Graduating senior Katherine Morucci (see Expedition Spring 2016) received a Rose Award for her thesis “Interpreting Morphological Variation in Archaeological Swine Teeth from Western and Central Asia.” The Anthropology Senior Prize was awarded to Jordi Armani Rivera Prince for best thesis: “Epigenetic Traits, Computerized Tomography, and Native American Identity.” Also, CAAM welcomes Dr. Peter Cobb, Kowalski Family Teaching Specialist for Digital Archaeology.

Unpacking the Past Completes Landmark Second Year

In its second year, the Unpacking the Past (UtP) program has reached over 6,000 Philadelphia Title I public and charter school students, parents, and teachers, with over 16,000 programmatic touchpoints. UtP, made possible by a lead grant from the GRoW Annenberg Foundation, offered lessons to 250 7th-grade classes in 36 zip codes in both the Museum and in schools. A major highlight of the 2015–16 program included more robust teacher support through a wide variety of teacher professional development experiences, resulting in an 86% increase in teacher participation. Philadelphia teachers loved the program: all reported that they would participate again, 92% stated that UtP helped them to achieve school standards, and 77% claimed that UtP will cause them to change their teaching practices. The team spent the summer delivering lessons to Extended School Year (ESY) classrooms for students with disabilities and teaching UtP lessons through a special School District of Philadelphia summer enrichment program. UtP continues into its third school year this fall.

LEFT: Thomas Leischner, GRoW Annenberg Museum Educator and Teen Specialist, works with students at Chester A. Arthur School.
Engaging Conservation: Collaboration Across Disciplines

The Penn Museum’s Conservation Department is celebrating its 50th anniversary this fall. To celebrate this important milestone, the Museum will host a symposium October 6–8, 2016 on issues related to archaeology, anthropology, and conservation. The symposium will explore how conservation has evolved over the last half century, the ways in which conservators inform and support the work of archaeologists and anthropologists, and the development of cross-disciplinary engagement. For more information, see penn.museum/loveconservation.

Ancient Near East Conference Held in Philadelphia

From July 11–15, 2016, the University of Pennsylvania and the Penn Museum hosted the 62nd Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale, marking only the fifth time the conference has been held in the United States. About 275 to 300 scholars and archaeologists attended from over 20 countries. The theme of the conference was *Ur in the 21st Century CE*. Papers were presented on philology (Sumerian and Akkadian), history, literature, culture, art, archaeology, and trade of the Ancient Near East. Sir Leonard Woolley excavated at Ur from 1922 through 1934 for the Penn Museum and the British Museum.

David Schwartz Named Museum Overseer

At its June 2016 meeting, the Museum Board of Overseers was pleased to welcome a new member: David A. Schwartz, M.D., M.S. Hyg., FCAP. David is a Clinical Professor at the Medical College of Georgia with a background in Anthropology, Public Health, Infectious Diseases, Women’s Health, and Epidemiology. An experienced author, editor, consultant, and researcher, he investigates the anthropological, biomedical, and epidemiological aspects of pregnancy complications as they affect society, particularly when they involve emerging infections. He is currently involved with issues related to Zika and Ebola virus infections and pregnancy. David’s longstanding association with the Penn Museum has been previously highlighted in *Expedition* (Winter 2014). As a child, David was found at the Penn Museum examining Mayan hieroglyphs by Dr. John Alden Mason, an anthropologist and Curator Emeritus of the American Section. Dr. Mason became David’s mentor, and they developed a lasting friendship. Following his service for the last two years as a member of the Director’s Council, David has now come full circle since meeting Dr. Mason decades ago.

Museum Hires New Director of Visitor Services

Edward (Ed) Reidell has joined the Visitor Services Department as Director of Visitor Services. Ed is responsible for ensuring that Museum guests have a comfortable, enjoyable, and memorable experience during their visit. He also organizes the Museum’s customer service efforts, seeing that all visitors encounter a welcoming, visitor-centric atmosphere. Ed comes to the Penn Museum with 30 years of experience in museums and historic sites. He spent the last ten years as the Site Administrator of Fonthill Castle, an early 20th-century historic house museum in Doylestown, PA.

Left: David Schwartz, shown with his daughter Jessica, visited the Museum’s Smith Creek Archaeological Project in southwest Mississippi in Summer 2015.
Salute to the Penn Museum Women’s Committee

Since its formation in 1937, the Women’s Committee of the Penn Museum pioneered many of the things we recognize today as integral to our Museum: the conservation department, the Museum shop, a calendar of events, a wide range of visitor services functions, gallery renovations, beautiful gardens, and a huge array of special events, to name just a very few. As these institutions and programs have been made part of Museum operations, the Committee concluded that their mission as a group has been successfully fulfilled and made the careful decision to end its operation as a 501(c)(3) entity in May.

At a luncheon in their honor in May 2016, Williams Director Julian Siggers paid special tribute to all Women’s Committee members for their extraordinary service, without which the Museum as we know it today would not exist. We look forward to continuing these individuals’ incredible involvement in our mission and programs.

The May luncheon included a slide show review of Women’s Committee initiatives and events including:

1. Museum’s Brazilian Coffee Shop, opened by the Women’s Committee in the 1950s.
3. Treasures Sale and Show, 2014. From left: Druellen Kolker; Arlene Olson, PAR04; and Doranne Lackman, PAR06.

May 2016 luncheon in honor of the Women’s Committee:

4. Lisa Siegel, President, and M. Trudy Slade, Vice President, present Julian Siggers with a check for $50,000 for digitization projects in the Museum Archives, the first of two installments.
5. Beth Butler, Missy McQuiston, and Schuy Wood.