

Plotting my Archaeological Trajectory: A Journey Marked by Literary Exploration

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## Collection Summary

Spanning from my childhood all the way to my undergraduate career at KU, my collection of archaeological books and magazines serves as a repository of my experience and knowledge. On my shelves are books from my time abroad, from memorable National Park visits, from field schools that I've participated in, and many more. I hope to continue to grow my collection and my knowledge as I continue forward into my graduate studies.

## Plotting my Archaeological Trajectory

With its cover predominated by sandy reds and browns and content that touts its accessibility to young readers, at first glance my most prized book seems pretty underwhelming. Just inside the cover is a written dedication, less formal than the normal typed passages that pepper the introductions of many novels. The passage reads “Happy 6<sup>th</sup> Birthday! September, 1999.” My Aunt wrote this before she gave the book to me. I remember my delight upon receiving the book, pursuing its fact-rich pages even though words such as ‘dendrochronology’ or ‘petroglyph’ remained foreign to me. It is to this precise moment, and to this particular book that I may trace my fascination with everything archaeological.

That first book was *Cities in the Sand*, an overview of ancient cultures of the American Southwest and the remains they left behind. Even at the age of six, my passion for archaeology was evident enough that my Aunt thought it fitting to purchase me such a book for my birthday. Since that day my collection of archaeological literature has grown along with me, spreading from a childhood obsession with Ancient Egyptian fact books, into scholarly journals and even fantastic curiosities like an antiquated archaeology textbook with a gilded urn on the cover.

My earliest acquisitions were titles like *1001 Facts About Ancient Egypt*, or *The Complete Valley of the Kings*. My initial passion for book collecting was driven by a thirst for knowledge, plain and simple. I jumped at the chance to go to the library and glance through the stacks full of books on Ancient Egypt or Rome, and any trip to the bookstore warranted covetous glances at (if not purchases of) similar glossy tomes. After I outgrew those more

puerile picture books, I started taking out subscriptions to archaeological magazines. This was also around the time I participated in my first archaeological field school. One particular magazine in the collection, *Kansas Preservation*, is very special to me. Because of a stone tool discovery that I made at an archaeological field school, I am featured on the cover of the summer 2010 issue!

I was after the books for their insights about other faraway cultures; it was less that I was collecting books and more that I was collecting knowledge. As I have grown older that quest for knowledge has expanded into a more collector's mindset, as I seek out the archaeological section at each book sale or bookstore that I stumble across. As I pursue a degree in Anthropology my collection continues to expand. I have acquired books for my undergraduate courses and many other ways besides- during my experience studying abroad in France, and on family vacations to national parks around the country.

I first began to truly understand my relationship with books in 10<sup>th</sup> grade. I have a very distinct memory from one class period where my teacher defined the word 'bibliophile'. It felt like a revelation- here, finally was a way to describe how I felt. Not only did I love reading, I loved the books themselves. How wonderful to discover the occasional scribbles left by a past owner, or to open a brand new book for the first time! My other insight came during my first year at KU. I had to take an inventory of my strengths for my new job, and upon taking the assessment I was provided with my top strength- that of input. Input was defined as the passion for collecting information, for adding to my repository physical evidence of knowledge gained or places visited. Here, finally was my full answer! My passions for archaeology manifest themselves through my book collection.

Collecting these books and magazines was a way for me to keep track of my knowledge and experience.

Some of the most recent additions to my collection show the path that my interests may take in coming years. I have gotten to the point in my French studies where I can reliably read literature that is written in French, and it is such a joy to see that I can now pursue books in two different languages. This past summer I happily used my French language skills to purchase *Des Mammouths Aux Menhirs* at a gift shop in Brittany. I hope to continue travelling, learning and adding to my collection. Every piece that I add to my literary collection helps me to remember how far I have come in my archaeological studies, and how much farther I would love to go.

## Bibliography

Bahn, Paul G. *The Atlas of World Archaeology*. New York: Checkmark, 2000. Print.

Baker, Rosalie. *Dig Magazine* 1 Sept. 2007. Print.

Bongioanni, Alessandro, and Maria Sole Croce, eds. *The Treasures of Ancient Egypt: The Collection of the Egyptian Museum in Cairo*. Vercelli: VMB, 2003. Print.

This book is more of an art collection than something to read, it was a wonderful birthday present that allowed me to feel like I was seeing the Museum at Cairo that I so desperately wished to visit.

Bray, Warwick, and David H. Trump. *The Penguin Dictionary of Archaeology*. Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1972. Print.

Brier, Bob. *Egyptian Mummies: Unraveling the Secret of an Ancient Art*. New York: Quill, 1994. Print.

I owned this book for a long time before I was truly old enough to understand its content. It is very much an adult book, but I remember enjoying the pictures and trying fruitlessly to read its dense chapters when I first got it as a child.

Charley, Catherine. *Tombs and Treasure*. London: Hamlyn, 1994. Print.

See-through overlays and ample pictures bring various famous burials to life in this informative children's book. I especially like the diversity of sites presented, as one can really compare the different burial practices from around the world throughout history.

Chrisp, Peter. *Ancient Egypt Revealed*. New York: DK, 2002. Print.

Drass, Richard, ed. *Plains Anthropologist* 54.209 (2009). Print.

Forbes, Dennis, ed. *KMT: A Modern Journal of Ancient Egypt* 1 June 2005. Print.

This magazine has articles about Egyptian archaeology, and specifically an article about an exhibition that I saw in 2005 called Tutankhamun & The Golden Age of the Pharaohs, where I purchased the magazine. The pictures are stunning and remind me of the remarkable treasures I had the privilege to see.

Hester, James J. *Introduction to Archaeology*. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1976. Print.

This was the first textbook I purchased upon entering college, and the class associated with it ended up being one of my favorite courses at KU thus far.

Hoard, Robert, ed. *Kansas Archaeology*. Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 2006. Print.

Magoffin, Ralph Van Deman, and Emily Cleveland Davis. *The Romance of Archaeology*. Garden City: Garden City, 1929. Print.

This book was a spontaneous find at a library book sale in my hometown; I was captivated by the gilded cover and the fanciful title. Its content is an interesting insight to the world of early 19<sup>th</sup> century archaeology.

Noble, David. *Ancient Ruins of the Southwest: An Archaeological Guide*. Flagstaff: Northland, 2000. Print.

Patrick, Zollner, ed. *Kansas Preservation* 1 June 2010. Print.

Pigeaud, Romain. *Des Mammouths Aux Menhirs: La Préhistoire Dans L'Ouest*. Rennes: Editions Ouest-France, 2007. Print.

After visiting several Neolithic sites in France during my time studying abroad, I couldn't resist this book concerning French prehistory- a chance to practice my French reading comprehension as well as learn more about the rich history of the region.

Reeves, C. N., and Richard H. Wilkinson. *The Complete Valley of the Kings: Tombs and Treasures of Egypt's Greatest Pharaohs*. New York: Thames and Hudson, 1996. Print.

Roux, Charles, and Yvon Lle. *Carnac, Locmariaquer and Gavrinis*. Rennes: Éd. Ouest-France, 2011. Print.

Sands, Emily, and Ian Andrew. *Egyptology: Search for the Tomb of Osiris : Being the Journal of Miss Emily Sands, November 1926*. Cambridge: Candlewick, 2004. Print.

This book and its companion handbook are some of the most delightful works of pseudo-non-fiction I have encountered. This work details the fictionalized journey of Emily Sands through Egypt in the early 1900s, but woven amongst the tale is genuine information about Egyptian archaeological wonders. It is a delight to see hieroglyphs and ancient board games in such an accessible fashion.

Sands, Emily. *The Egyptology Handbook: A Course in the Wonders of Egypt*. Cambridge: Candlewick, 2005. Print.

Steedman, Scott. *1001 Facts About Ancient Egypt*. London: Dorling Kindersley, 2003. Print.

Thomas, David Hurst, and Robert L. Kelly. *Archaeology*. 6th ed. Belmont: Thomson/Wadsworth, 2013. Print.

Valentino, Claudia. *Archaeology Magazine* 1 Mar. 2015. Print.

Van Camp, Mary, ed. *Mesa Verde: The Story Behind the Scenery*. Las Vegas, 1993. Print.

Victoria, Osborn, and Erik Kingston. *OK Comics: Mystery of Lost Arch* 1 June 1996. Print.

This is a fun little comic book that uses the story of two siblings that stumble backwards in time while in Arches National Park to illustrate some of the practices of Native Americans that would have historically lived in the area. Little blurbs with historical and nature related facts add to the experience.

Wade, Nicholas. *Before the Dawn: Recovering the Lost History of Our Ancestors*. New York: Penguin Group, 2006. Print.

Warren, Scott S. *Cities in the Sand: The Ancient Civilizations of the Southwest*. San Francisco: Chronicle, 1992. Print.

Wulfkuhle, Virginia, ed. *The Kansas Anthropologist* 32 (2011). Print.

This journal is the annual publication of the Kansas Anthropological Association, and it is of special interest to me as I have participated extensively in archaeological fieldwork in the state of Kansas. I am also a member of the KAA, as listed in this particular journal edition.