

ACQUISITIONS STRATEGY (*The University of Alberta Bryan/Gruhn Archaeology Collection*)

A. COLLECTIONS AND PROGRAMS

1. Describe the purpose of the Collection and why it is maintained by the unit

Focus:

The University of Alberta Bryan/Gruhn Archaeology Collection is maintained by the Department of Anthropology. It specializes in:

- Lithic and ceramic artefacts but also floral, faunal, and metallic artefacts, lithic raw material examples, lithic microwear studies, and experimental replicas.
- Northern Plains prehistory but also a wide range of geographic and time frames useful to show the range of materials discovered and studied by archaeologists.

Within Anthropology, the sub-discipline of archaeology attempts to document and interpret the course of human cultural evolution. Material cultural remains are a primary focus for this study. Therefore, the physical objects within the Archaeology Collections are a primary tool for study in the field of archaeology. The collection and retention of original archaeological specimens is legislated in most countries around the world. All decisions to acquire need to consider the applicable legislation as part of the acquisition process.

Research and Teaching Support:

- As a teaching collection to support undergraduate and graduate teaching in Anthropology and in various other departments and institutions.
- As a repository for undergraduate, graduate and faculty research collections.
- As a reference collection to assist students and researchers in the identification of lithic materials and their sources, microwear, and lithic types.
- As a collection documenting the history of field research and collecting done by founding faculty members Drs. Alan Bryan and Ruth Gruhn.
- As a collection representing the history of private collecting by homesteaders and landowners in Alberta's past.
- As a source of hands-on and display materials for on and off-campus outreach activities.

History:

The Archaeology Collection was founded shortly after the beginning of the department in 1966. The first accessions are from 1967, many of which were materials collected by Alan Bryan, the first Curator of the Collection, and his partner Ruth Gruhn. They continued to collect and deposit specimens into the collections throughout their careers.



When the Anthropology department moved into the Tory building in the fall of 1966, Tory 1-32 became the first Archaeology lab. This lab housed various collections from 1966 to 1993 and was also the hub of grad student activities for the first two decades.

In the 1980s many casts were purchased and added to the Archaeology Collection for teaching. The department also hosted a visiting scholar and flintknapper (D. Crabtree) who produced many replicas for the collection. In 1985, casts and replicas in the Archaeology collection were moved to a renovated seminar room across from the main Archaeology Lab and housed with Biological Anthropology casts for teaching purposes.

Dr Bryan was the curator until his retirement in 1993, when Dr. Pamela Willoughby took over as Curator and an Archaeology Technologist (Collection Manager) position was created. At this time, all Archaeology materials were moved into a purpose built Collection and Teaching lab in Tory 1-28. Once this designated lab was available, the department lobbied for and received several additional collections previously curated by the Department of Geology (now EAS). This included their holdings of the Henri-Marc Ami collection of old world artefacts, collected in the 1920s. In the past 15 years various original, cast and replica materials have been acquired to enhance the geographic and time frame coverage of the collection.

2. Type of Material in Current Collection

Material	# of accessioned	# to be accessioned	# pending decision
North and South American artefacts (many collected by Bryan / Gruhn)	4575	38	29 Lots*
Ami European artefacts	1874		
Other old world materials	408		3 Lots*
Crabtree replicas	201		
Other replicas	283		
Casts	353		
Raw material samples	243	4	
Experimental research material	1286	6	7 Lots* [#]
Microwear reference		35	40
Total	8980	83	*

*Lots can contain 1 to over 100 individual specimens

Includes "Found in Collection" and "Undocumented Museum Objects" which may not be appropriate for accessioning.



3. List the academic programs supported by the Collection

Continuing Undergraduate and Graduate programs

Student numbers are approximate for one term. Some courses run both or all three terms. These courses affect the growth of the collection in that teaching needs are considered as part of the acquisition strategy.

- **Anthe 101 Introduction à l'anthropologie (21 students)**
The Arch Collection provides teaching display material.
- **Anthr 101 Introductory Anthropology (313 students)**
The Arch Collection provides teaching display material.
- **Anthr 206 Introduction to Archaeology (66 students)**
The Arch Collection is a primary component of the labs used for display, reference and projects.
- **Anthr 209 Introduction to Biological Anthropology (70 students)**
The Arch Collection provides teaching display material for labs.
- **219 World Prehistory (80 students)**
The Arch Collection provides teaching display material.
- **Anthr 256 Alberta Archaeology (40 students)**
The Arch Collection provides specimens for teaching display, reference and projects.
- **Anthr 311 N American Prehistory (40 students)**
The Arch Collection provides specimens for teaching display, reference and projects.
- **Anthr 312 Lower Paleolithic Prehistory (60 students)**
The Arch Collection provides display material.
- **Anthr 313 Middle and Upper Paleolithic Prehistory (60 students)**
The Arch Collection provides teaching display material.
- **Anthr 396 Archaeological Field Methods (10 students)**
The Arch Collection provides specimens for teaching display, reference and projects.
Occasionally the field school may collect specimens that can be reproduced as casts or replicas and added to the accessioned collection.
- **Anthr 484 Topics in Archaeology (Plains Archaeology) (10 students)**
The Arch Collection provides specimens for teaching display, reference and projects.
Occasionally these projects produce specimens that can be added to the accessioned collection.
- **Anthr 491 Stone Tools (8 students)**
The Arch Collection is a primary component of the labs used for teaching display, reference and projects. Occasionally these projects produce specimens that can be added to the collection.
- **Anthr 584 Advanced Topics in Archaeology (Plains Archaeology)(5 students)**
The Arch Collection provides specimens for teaching display, reference and projects.
Occasionally these projects produce specimens that can be added to the collection.
- **Hist 241**
The Arch Collection provides teaching display material.
- **MLCS 201**
The Arch Collection provides teaching display material.
The Arch Collection provides specimens for teaching display, reference and projects.
- **Anthr 584 Advanced Topics in Archaeology (Advanced Stone Tools)(2 students)**
The Archaeology Collection provides specimens for teaching display, reference and projects.
Occasionally these projects produce specimens that can be added to the collection.
- **Anthr 593 Evolution and Social Life (10 students)**



The Archaeology Collection provides specimens for teaching display, reference and projects.

- Thesis Research (Sporadic, less than one per year)
The Archaeology Collection provides specimens for reference and projects. Occasionally thesis projects produce specimens that can be added to the accessioned collection.

Research:

Presently one department faculty member makes limited use of collection specimens for Institute of Prairie Archaeology research objectives. The collection is part of a collaboration with Canadian Heritage Information Network on database standards for Canadian Museums. Various national and international researchers access the collections infrequently, through loans or collection visits, for a range of research topics. These activities do not currently affect the growth of the collection. For the future, a project researching the history of collecting in the department has been proposed and is awaiting approval.

4. List community engagement programs/activities supported by the Collection

Current / Continuing:

- K-12 Programs
By request, we provide on campus tours and programs to various groups including school and other school age groups (summer camps, WISEST, Liberal Arts Day and Senate U School). One major outreach program for the Archaeology Collection is our participation in Science Sunday for elementary school age children. We use the accessioned collection as well as unaccessioned Archaeology specimens and purpose bought materials to provide a mock Archaeology dig that shows what archaeologists really do. Department members are sometimes asked to provide off campus lectures in schools or libraries for which they borrow Archaeology Collection display materials including casts and replicas.
- Exhibition
Archaeology Collection Specimens are often used for temporary on campus displays and for various events like Institute openings, University of Alberta Open House, and Clubs Fair as well as U Recruitment office programs. Off campus programs include Public/Lay Archaeology groups; Extension and other seniors groups; other colleges including Yellowhead Tribal College, University of Lethbridge and Grant MacEwan University; and even the Iringa (Tanzania) Region Community Archaeology Project.
- Public enquiries
In a year we would field half a dozen or more requests for information. Some of these are from other institutions (recent examples are UBC and Mount Royal College), some are from students or staff and some are from the general public. These can include requests for identifications of possible Archaeological specimens for which our collection is used as a reference.

All of these programs serve the university mission of community involvement. As well, many also serve the Department of Anthropology as a recruitment aid.

New Programs:

The collection has been approached with a WISEST program opportunity that may affect the size of the collection, through deaccessions.



B. STRATEGY AND CRITERIA FOR NEW ACQUISITIONS

1. Identify the types of new acquisitions that are essential to support the current and proposed programs identified above

All acquisitions will be assessed on a case-by-case basis, taking into consideration the importance of the collection, size, storage needs and space availability, human resource requirements to curate and available documentation.

1. Asian and African material to fill in large gaps in geographic coverage.
2. Arctic Material to expand the variety of tools and culture history categories of our Arctic holdings.
3. Alberta and Plains Material for teaching and outreach and replacement of damaged or lost materials in outreach programs especially Science Sunday.
4. Other geographic locations identified by the department as an area of expertise in the department to support teaching and reference material.
5. Raw material samples of University of Alberta researchers for teaching, research and outreach reference.
6. Experimental research collections to support all collection programs.
7. Duplicates of high use specimens for use in teaching, display and outreach.

Criteria for Acquisition

- All donations must be accompanied by a donation agreement (including donor information).
- All original artefacts require location and collection information (latitude/longitude and closest community) and proof of ownership.
- All raw material samples require the name and source of material.
- All floral and faunal material requires the relevant collection/ import permits.
- All replicas require artist information and the ability for the University of Alberta to obtain image copyright (copyright license).
- All casts require classification/ name of artefact, cultural affiliation, geographic location and collector name and information of original plus the name of the artist and the ability for the University of Alberta to obtain image copyright (copyright license).
- Experimental research-related artefacts must be accompanied by reprint or copy of thesis and individual specimen identification.



2. List any existing collecting area that will no longer be supplemented

The Archaeology collection will no longer accept European prehistoric lithic materials except specimens that fall under the high use category 7 above or are part of an existing source donor collection (e.g. Ami). We have adequate representation of this category of artefacts. The Archaeology collection will also become very cautious about accepting donations and transfers of original artefacts and experimental research collections, due to limited space and human resources. All acquisition is subject to budgetary restraints and successful grant applications as these are necessary to provide adequate staff time for any collection activities.

3. List any additional requirements unique to the Collection that would affect a decision to acquire

The collection and repatriation to appropriate repositories, of original Archaeological specimens, is currently tightly legislated in this province and country and in most countries around the world. All Alberta materials collected after 1972 are subject to the Historical Resources Act. All decisions to acquire need to consider all applicable legislation within Canada, the object's country of origin, and international conventions and treaties as part of the acquisition process.

Continuing technical collection staff is a 1/3 time recurring position. This severely limits the collection's capacity to process acquisitions in the May to August time period each year.

Approved by Unit/Department/Faculty

Dr. Pamela Willoughby
Designated Curator (Print Name)

Pamela Willoughby
(Signature)

LISA PHILIPS
Chair/Dean/Director (Print Name)

Lisa Philips
(Signature)

28.11.11
Date Completed

Approved by Museums and Collections Services

Dec 15, 2011
Janine Andrews, Executive Director

[Signature]
Date

Approved by U of A Museums Policy and Planning Committee

Heather Proctor
Chair, Policy and Planning Committee (Print Name)

[Signature]
Signature

DECEMBER 8, 2011
Date of Committee Meeting

DECEMBER 2016
Date of Next Review

