

Arthur L. Frothingham records from the Etruscan tomb groups excavation

1040

**Finding aid prepared by Kathleen Baxter, Larry Rosen, Valentina Follo, and Alessandro
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University of Pennsylvania, Penn Museum Archives

July 2009

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Summary Information

Repository	University of Pennsylvania: Penn Museum Archives
Creator	Frothingham, Arthur L.
Creator	Stevenson, Sara Yorke, 1847-1921
Title	Arthur L. Frothingham records from the Etruscan tomb groups excavation
Call number	1040
Date [bulk]	1893-1903
Date [inclusive]	1890-1930
Extent	1 linear foot
Language	English
Abstract	<p>Although classical, including Etruscan, collections had been donated to the University of Pennsylvania Museum since the early 1890s it was in 1896 that the Museum formally authorized excavations in Italy and the acquisition of Etruscan tomb groups, as well as individual objects, for the Museum. Professor Arthur L. Frothingham of Princeton, then Secretary of the American School of Classical Studies in Rome, was commissioned to represent the Museum in Italy. Most of the tomb groups which Frothingham obtained are from Narce and Vulci, although there are objects from many other sites including Cerveteri, Orvieto, and Civita Castellana. The textual records from the excavations in Italy consist of one linear foot of correspondence, notes, financial accounts, and photographs related to the excavation of Etruscan tombs through which the Museum obtained the majority of its Etruscan collections.</p>

Cite as:

[Item name]. Box [Box number]. Arthur L. Frothingham records from the Etruscan tomb groups excavation. Penn Museum Archives. Accessed [Date accessed].

Biography/History

Although classical, including Etruscan, collections had been donated to the University of Pennsylvania Museum since the early 1890's it was in 1896 that Dr. William Pepper as President of the Museum's Board of Managers and Sara Yorke Stevenson as Secretary of the Museum and Mediterranean Section Curator formally authorized excavations in Italy and the acquisition of Etruscan tomb groups, as well as individual objects, for the Museum. Professor Arthur L. Frothingham of Princeton, then Secretary of the American School of Classical Studies in Rome, was commissioned to represent the Museum in Italy. Most of the tomb groups which Frothingham obtained are from Narce and Vulci, although there are objects from many other sites including Cerveteri, Orvieto, and Civita Castellana. Although the actual excavation work was conducted by Italian archaeologists, Francesco Mancinelli-Scotti in particular, Frothingham sent letters, notes, and photographs (made by Lorenzo Cozza) of the Etruscan finds to Stevenson for the Museum's decision on purchases. Thus, much of the correspondence is of a financial nature, and is often between Stevenson and the Museum's managers as well as Frothingham, and a small amount with Mancinelli. Many of the funds for these purchases were provided by the American Exploration Society, which worked closely with the Museum and had been founded by Pepper and Stevenson as a fundraising arm of the institution.

Frothingham was connected with the University of Pennsylvania Museum from 1895 to 1898 and was even named an associate curator in January of 1897. However, his relationship with the Museum deteriorated following a dispute between Frothingham and Italian archaeologists over the ownership of armor from Narce and Stevenson's simultaneous questioning of Frothingham's appropriation of Museum funds following her visit to Italy in the summer of 1897. Much of the correspondence concerns the controversy over Frothingham and is often with Hector de Castro, Consulate-General of the United States, who represented the Museum. Since John Wanamaker had both contributed heavily to the Museum's Etruscan funds and entered into a contract with Frothingham to acquire his own small Etruscan collection, many of the papers concern him. Much of the correspondence was copied or summarized by Stevenson.

Scope and Contents

The records relating to the excavation of Etruscan tomb groups in Italy was originally compiled by Sara Yorke Stevenson, first Curator of the University of Pennsylvania Museum's Mediterranean Section (1894-1905). These records were later gathered together by Edith Hall Dohan (Assistant Curator, 1911-1915, and Curator, 1930-1943) in order to prepare her 1943 publication, *Italic Tomb Groups*. It consists of correspondence, notes, financial accounts, and photographs related to the excavation of Etruscan tombs through which the Museum obtained the majority of its Etruscan collections.

Papers relating to other acquisitions of Etruscan material (Coleman Collection, Phoebe Hearst, Platt, etc.) are filed in the records of the Mediterranean Section — Sara Yorke Stevenson. Frothingham was asked to also investigate the purchase of marbles from Lake Nemi, and therefore some of the letters in the Etruscan Tomb Groups collection pertain to these finds.

In the "Excavation Notes" series, most seem to have been written originally by Mancinelli, but some were copied in other hands. Many were obtained by de Castro from Frothingham, then sent to Stevenson. The folder on Musarna concerns a collection of Etruscan sarcophagi and includes newspaper clippings from 1900.

For related collections see Sara Yorke Stevenson's and Edith Hall Dohan's curatorial papers in the Mediterranean Section records. See also the artifact photograph collections for studio photography of the Museum pieces, the Minutes of the Board of Managers, and the Mediterranean Section object catalogues.

Administrative Information

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Controlled Access Headings

CORPORATE NAME(S)

- University of Pennsylvania. Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology.

FORM/GENRE(S)

- Field notes

GEOGRAPHIC NAME(S)

- Cerveteri (Italy)
- Civit  Castellana (Italy)
- Narce (Italy)
- Orvieto (Italy)
- Vulci (Italy)

PERSONAL NAME(S)

- Frothingham, Arthur L.
- Stevenson, Sara Yorke, 1847-1921

Collection Inventory

CORRESPONDENCE.

Series Description

Correspondence relating to Etruscan excavations undertaken by Italian archaeologists for Arthur L. Frothingham, representative of the University of Pennsylvania Museum, including finances and several progress reports (see letters from February 28 and March 15, 1897, and January 14, February 20, and March 1, 1898). Correspondence is primarily between Sara Yorke Stevenson and Frothingham and Hector de Castro (1895-1900). Also some letters with William Pepper, Phoebe Hearst, John Wanamaker, and others. Arranged chronologically. Also includes a chronology of events and correspondence by Stevenson.

	Box
1893, 1895.	1
1896: Jan-April.	1
1896: May-August.	1
1896: Sept-Dec.	1
1896: Platt/Stevenson.	1
1897: Jan.-Feb.	1
1897: March.	1
1897: April-July.	1
1897: August.	1

1897: Sept.	1
1897: Oct.-Nov.	1
1897: December.	1
1898: Jan-Feb.	1
1898: March-Oct.	1
1899.	2
1900-1903.	2
Stevenson Chronology.	2

ACCOUNTS.

Series Description

Receipts and lists of expenses related to the excavations and the purchase of artifacts. Arranged chronologically.

	Box
Financial Accounts 1895-1900.	2

EXCAVATION NOTES, 1895-1898.

Series Description

Excavation notes, probably by Mancinelli from Narce, Vulci, Civita Castellana, Musarna, and other Etruscan sites. Some sent by de Castro to Stevenson. Arranged by site.

	Box
Civita Castellana.	2
Musarna.	2
Narce.	2
Vulci.	2
Miscellaneous (Ardea, Tarquinia, Montebello, Toscanella, etc.).	2

CATALOGUE, 1896-1930.

Series Description

Photographs and handwritten descriptions of Etruscan artifacts offered to Stevenson by Frothingham. Check corresponding sites in "Excavation Notes." (Photographs were inadvertently removed from the written descriptions in 1980, but most re-discovered and replaced in 1981). Few later notes by E. H. Dohan. Arranged in two groups, by tomb number (also called case number), or by Museum object number.

	Box
Catalogue by Case/ Tomb No., 2-23.	2
Catalogue by Case/ Tomb No., 24-68.	2
Catalogue by Case/ Tomb No., 97-116.	2
Catalogue by Case/ Tomb, Unnumbered.	2

Catalogue by Museum Number, 434-906.	2
Catalogue by Museum Number, 907-2247.	2
Vulci [S. Y. Stevenson].	2
Curatorial Notes.	2

PHOTOGRAPHS.

Series Description

Additional photographs of tomb groups and individual artifacts, no longer attached to the Catalogue.

	Box
1 of 2.	2
2 of 2.	2

MISCELLANEOUS.

Series Description

One folder containing labels for Wanamaker jewelry and one drawing.

	Box
Miscellaneous (labels, drawing).	2