Capitoline Museums in Rome to Join With University of Missouri to Catalog Artifacts

ROME — Beginning this semester, students at the University of Missouri will get a hands-on opportunity to study ancient artifacts through a pilot project with the Capitoline Museums in Rome.

The museums have lent 249 Roman-era artifacts of black-glazed pottery to the university for students to research and catalog. Culled from the museums’ cavernous deposits — the repository covers roughly 150 years of modern excavations in the Italian capital — the as yet unstudied artifacts will give students at the Midwestern university tangible exposure to Mediterranean archaeology.

In exchange, the objects will return to the museums with a scholarly pedigree that the Roman institution could not afford on its own.

The initiative is a novelty in Italy, a country that has traditionally kept a tight hold on its cultural patrimony, and also marks a new outreach effort on the part of the Culture Ministry, which facilitated the export of the artifacts. Crucial sponsorship came by way of Enel Green Power, the clean energy unit of the Italian utility Enel, which financed the initiative.

“Our primary interest was in creating highways of knowledge between countries, because it’s a way to give back to the community,” said Francesco Venturini, the chief executive officer of Enel Green Power, which developed the project as part of the company’s commitment to corporate social responsibility.

The university had plenty of material to choose from. Only a part of the nearly 100,000 artifacts in the Capitoline’s deposits have been properly analyzed and cataloged.

“What’s exciting is that these are unstudied or inadequately studied pieces because they’re part of a backlog created in the 19th century,” said Alex W. Barker, the director of the university’s Museum of Art and Archaeology.

The project is a “huge opportunity,” he added, that permits the university to “engage students with primary materials that they might otherwise not have access to” and that delivers results “of benefit to our Italian colleagues” and to scholarship in general.

The materials arrived in Missouri at the beginning of the month and are being stored at the museum. The formal analysis of the pieces — a detailed examination to determine class,
typology, manufacture, period, style and context — will be undertaken by senior graduate students in concert with professors. “It’s the one-on-one training that is important in Ph.D. programs,” Dr. Barker said.

Supervised undergraduate students will assist the museum staff in analyzing the artifacts using various techniques available at the Archaeometry Laboratory at the University of Missouri Research Reactor. The lab is considered one of the most advanced of its kind in the United States, and has helped analyze more than 145,000 archaeological specimens from around the world over the past 25 years. Students and professors will decide how best to structure the data gleaned from the analysis, adhering to standards used by both American and foreign scholars.

“These are costly tests that we would have never been able to afford on this side of the ocean,” said Antonella Magagnini, a senior curator at the Capitoline Museums who helped develop the research project.

“This kind of large-scale loan for research purposes is unprecedented” in Italy, said Claudio Parisi Presicce, the director of the Capitoline Museums, noting that the sheer volume of unstudied materials — whether in bronze, glass or marble — meant that “the potential of this project is enormous.” The museums, he added, hold countless examples of objects used in daily life, “so it’s a rich font of information about the ancient world.”

Once studied and returned to Italy, the objects could go on display in a long-awaited, but yet to be built, municipal museum about ancient Rome.

Formally, the collaboration between the museum and the university is to last two years, although it seeks to be open ended in spirit. “Hopefully we’ve made things simpler for other projects and other universities,” Dr. Barker said.

Several institutions have expressed an interest in initiating similar exchanges. Enel Green Power is sponsoring a project at the Rhode Island School of Design that will start in October, while collaborations will begin next year at the University of Oklahoma and the University of Texas at Austin. Enel Green Power is also in preliminary talks with the University of California, Los Angeles; the University of California, Berkeley; Stanford, New York University, Yale and Harvard.

Enel Green Power will invest about 100,000 euros, or about $130,000, in each project, and will choose universities with innovative ideas for studying the artifacts, Mr. Venturini said. “Our objective is to extend the exchange to different institutions. We don’t see this project ending if it works,” he said.
MU to partner in study of Italian antiquities

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — Students at the University of Missouri in Columbia will be the first in the nation to take part in a massive study of ancient Roman artifacts that have been stored in the Italian capital for more than a century.

Chancellor Bowen Loftin joined officials of the Italian government and Rome's Capitoline Museums in announcing the partnership Monday.

The three-year project, dubbed "The Hidden Treasure of Rome," will bring about 100,000 artifacts to U.S. universities to be studied, restored and catalogued. The University of Missouri is the first institution to be chosen for the work.

About 250 ancient ceramics have already arrived in Columbia for study at the university's Department of Art History and Archeology.

The project is being funded by the North American subsidiary of Italy's Enel Green Power.

MU, Italian government partner in antiquities study

By Ashley Jost

Monday, September 15, 2014 at 11:30 am Comments (1)

The University of Missouri and the Italian government are collaborating to better understand antiquities stored in a Roman museum for decades.
Representatives from MU and the Italian Embassy announced the collaboration Monday, along with a representative from Enel Green Power, an Italian power company that is providing the majority of the project’s funding.

After the Italian unification in 1870, much of Rome was cleared for new government buildings, and many antiquities were unearthed. The materials were put in the Antiquarium, a unit of the Capitoline Museum in Rome, and haven’t been studied since.

Thanks to a recommendation from the Nelson Atkins Museum in Kansas City, the Italian officials and MU connected to discuss the possibility of loaning the antiquities stored in the Antiquarium. The partnership is called “Hidden Treasure of Rome.”

Alex Barker, director of the Museum of Art and Archaeology at MU, said the university’s specialized programs in art history, doctorate program in classical archaeology, the museum and the MU Research Reactor all worked in the university’s favor.

MU is the first school to enter into this type of collaboration. If it goes well, the Italian government likely will expand to other universities, too.

Barker said being the first institution means MU researchers are working to set up a database or system that will allow the researchers to input information in a way that will be useful for researchers at the museum in Rome when the materials are sent back.

The collaboration is a revolving loan process, in which types of artifacts will come to the university in groups. Materials are on two-year loans.

The project is beginning with pottery and will later move to the stored mosaics, glass and metals. Barker said the university is negotiating the exact number of antiquities as they go through the revolving loans. The first loan — a set of 249 black gloss ware pottery pieces from as early as the fifth century B.C. — arrived over Labor Day weekend.

Researchers will analyze the chemical composition of the antiquities using the campus reactor to trace them back to where they were made and what they were made from. Barker said the collaboration gives student and faculty researchers free range to publish based on findings from this project.

Enel Green Power is funding the majority of the project, including some costs for transportation from Rome to Columbia. Michela De Gennaro, director of external relations at Enel, said in an email that it’s too early to “evaluate the amount of funding necessary.”

Different departments from the university are picking up additional costs, including support for advanced graduate students working on the project. The Museum of Art and Archaeology absorbed costs for a new security system, too. Barker said he’s not prepared to talk about the cost yet.
Claudio Parisi Presicce, superintendent of cultural heritage for the city of Rome and director of the Capitoline Museums of Rome, said at Monday’s announcement that the project is important to the Italian government.

“Each fragment is fundamental to complete the mosaic of our history,” he said, thanking the university for its assistance.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

In rare deal, MU will research Italian artifacts

Monday, September 15, 2014 | 6:58 p.m. CDT; updated 8:29 p.m. CDT, Monday, September 15, 2014

BY MICHAEL ALVEY

COLUMBIA — In an unprecedented agreement between MU and the Italian government, Italian antiquities older than Christendom have been loaned to the university for research.

Through "The Hidden Treasures of Rome" project, previously unstudied artifacts that have been stored in Rome will be researched by MU students and scholars until Dec. 31, 2017.

Although the Capitoline Museums in Rome, from which the antiquities come, have done many temporary international loans of art, this is the first time that a long-term international research project has been developed, and it is the most vessels ever loaned.

With such a large scale of unstudied art, the program allows the Capitoline to outsource some of its artifacts for analysis and gives international students the opportunity to study the art for the first time.

MU is the pilot program for the project, which is intended to be replicated by universities across the United States. The first round of art, which arrived over Labor Day weekend, consists of 249 vessels of black-gloss pottery dating from the fourth century B.C. to the first century B.C.

Officials from MU and the Italian government were on hand Monday at the Reynolds Alumni Center for the formal, public signing of the project agreement. Also there were representatives of Enel Green Power North America, a renewable energy company that is the funding partner for the project along with the Cultural Heritage Superintendency of the city of Rome.
MU Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin and Maurizio Anastasi, director of the Superintendency, signed the agreement.

Although the announcement was made Monday, negotiations had been in the works for more than a year. The artifacts' journey has been far longer.

Italy and art go together like linguini and wine, and antiquities such as the black-gloss pottery are part of an art continuum that reaches to the likes of Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo.

Some time between 1870 and the 1920s, more than 100,000 antiquities, including the pottery now at MU, were found in Italy and stored in Rome. They eventually went to the Capitoline, which was designed by Michelangelo and is the oldest public museum in the world.

But until now, they have not been studied.

Susan Langdon, chairwoman of MU's Department of Art History and Archaeology, said Italy has been reluctant to make loans because of a fear of not having the antiquities returned.

To ensure that unanticipated events don't prevent the return of the objects to Italy, one of the conditions of the loan was that the U.S. State Department certified that the project was of national interest so that the art can't be seized by judicial acts.

Langdon is delighted by what the project will mean for MU researchers and students.

"This is a very rare opportunity to see artifacts that have never been studied before and unprecedented for a foreign government to initiate such a generous project with an American museum," she said. "Our students will be on the ground floor of a project that will be a model for other institutions."

MU got involved through a Kansas City connection.

The "Fauno rosso," a famous ancient, Roman, red-marble statue was loaned to the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art in Kansas City. When talks of "The Hidden Treasure of Rome Project" started a few months later, curators at Nelson-Atkins recommended MU as an ideal partner.
Alex Barker, director of the MU Museum of Art and Archaeology, said MU was selected because of its museum, which is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums and has expertise in antiquities; its Department of Art History and Archaeology, which offers doctorates in classical archaeology; and its archaeometry lab at the MU Research Reactor, which he considers to be one of the best in the nation.

"There are universities that have at least one of those things, but there's really nobody else that has that combination," Barker said.

The project is being documented in a film called "The Hidden Treasures of Rome," sponsored by Enel Green Power. It will chronicle the project from Rome to Columbia, a representative from EGP said. Five minutes of the documentary was shown at the announcement Monday, and it will be released in its entirety in November.

Also, an MU student has followed the Italian film crew to learn technical aspects of filming and chronicle the process of filming for a meta-documentary, Barker said.

The loaned artifacts are mainly for research purposes, though a few of the antiquities may be displayed in the Museum of Art and Archaeology when its galleries open in Mizzou North in 2015. All 249 vessels of the black-gloss pottery will be studied at the museum by a group consisting mostly of graduate students from the Art History and Archaeology Department.

Doctoral student Johanna Hobratschk has begun cataloging the pottery. Hobratschk, who has 10 years of experience in studying pottery with Excavations in the Athenian Agora at the American School of Classical Studies at Athens, will go through each antiquity, writing descriptions, taking measurements and documenting her observations in a database.

After she finishes cataloging, the antiquities will be studied to address further questions about their production and origin.

Although she hasn't had much time to study the art yet, Hobratschk believes that given their state of preservation, a number of the antiquities were probably buried in graves.

After the Department of Art History and Archaeology studies the antiquities, samples will be sent to the archaeometry lab for analysis. A neuron activation analysis technique
will be used to "chemically characterize" the artifacts, said Michael Glascock, group leader of the archaeometry lab.

The chemical analysis will create a database of compositions, allowing the artifacts to be compared to one another, to other analyses that were performed in the past or future analyses, Glascock said in an email.

"These comparisons enable archaeologists to link pottery found in Rome to other regions in Italy and any other places from which the pottery may have originated," he wrote. "The information allows one to reconstruct trade routes, study human migration, etc."

Once the antiquities are fully studied, researched and analyzed, they will be returned to the Capitoline with the results documented, and a new group of artifacts will take their place at MU.

Barker thinks that everyone involved will benefit from the project.

"It's exciting for the department because it will help with the recruitment of top students," Barker said. "It's exciting for the museum because this is what we do, and it's exciting for the archaeometry lab because it expands the database of materials that they have to compare with future objects. And the Italians benefit by having unstudied antiquities fully documented and analyzed. So, everybody wins."

**ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH**

**Mizzou chancellor has clear vision for his role in athletics**

**COLUMBIA, Mo.** • R. Bowen Loftin walked into his first meeting of the Big 12 Conference presidents and chancellors in June 2009. Loftin had just been named interim president at Texas A&M. His experience dealing in college athletics was limited to his time as CEO at Texas A&M’s branch campus in Galveston.

“Our two varsity sports were sailing and rowing,” he said.

The rookie in the Big 12 meeting room left Dallas that day in shock.
“First of all, not everyone was there,” said Loftin, now chancellor at the University of Missouri. “There had been a history already of people not coming to the meetings and sending delegates, which is not permitted in the SEC. ... Every meeting there (was) missing people. That was not a good way to run a conference, in my opinion.”

If Loftin has made anything clear in his nine months at Mizzou it’s this: Showing up is essential.

Whether it’s along the sidelines on Faurot Field, greeting fans at a volleyball match or visiting with students on The Quad, the first-year chancellor has quickly become the most visible figure on campus not named Truman the Tiger. The 65-year-old mustachioed Texan’s presence is unmistakable thanks to his trademark bow tie — he owns more than 400 — and his keen interest and support of athletics might be unprecedented for the school’s top administrator.

As athletics director Mike Alden enters his 17th year at Mizzou, his new boss is someone who quickly forged a reputation as a powerful figure on his previous campus and on the national stage — with athletics at the core of Loftin’s rise. In the 1990s and again in 2010, Texas A&M had flirted with joining the SEC but couldn’t reach a consensus among boosters and fans. In 2011, Loftin made it possible.

“I always joke that the bow-tie-wearing physics professor was at the forefront of college realignment,” said Jason Cook, Texas A&M’s senior associate athletics director. “Obviously, with a decision of that magnitude a lot of people are involved … but Dr. Loftin got all these people moving in the same direction.”

Loftin’s legacy at Texas A&M is already written — literally. Later this fall, Loftin’s co-written account of the school’s Big 12 departure will hit bookstores: “The 100-Year Decision: Texas A&M and the SEC.”

After guiding the Aggies out of the Big 12 and into the SEC in 2011 — and thereby leading the SEC to pursue a 14th member, which turned out to be Missouri — Loftin announced his resignation from Texas A&M, his alma mater, in July 2013. Missouri’s search firm approached him two months later about replacing departing chancellor Brady Deaton. In December, he was announced as Deaton’s successor, just in time for Loftin to attend Mizzou’s appearance in the SEC football championship game in Atlanta wearing a new black and gold bow tie.

In his eight months on the job — Mizzou will hold a formal inauguration ceremony Thursday — Loftin has given glimpses of his leadership style when it comes to athletics. Loftin doesn’t believe in meddling in Alden’s daily business, but he requires constant communication with his athletics director.

“First rule of management: Don’t be surprised,” Loftin said. “Mike understands that very well, so he makes sure I’m not surprised.”

Loftin said he trusts Alden to identify candidates for head-coaching jobs. When Mizzou was looking for a men’s basketball coach in April, Alden visited with four finalists, then came back to Loftin with one name: Kim Anderson.
From there, Anderson met with Loftin at the chancellor’s home, where they talked about Anderson’s standards for player behavior and academics.

“I never had one question about how he coaches basketball,” Loftin said. “I assumed that was all taken care of by the AD. … I have a pretty good sense where my line is and where Mike’s line is.”

“He has a great understanding of how intercollegiate athletics intersect with higher education — that it’s important but not the most important thing,” Alden said. “I really appreciate his visibility, his energy. He’s a person that will make a decision. … He gets it.”

When it comes to firing head coaches, Loftin did that once at Texas A&M — and vows it won’t happen again. After the 2011 season, Loftin sensed it was time Texas A&M part ways with football coach Mike Sherman, whom Loftin believed was too consumed with X’s and O’s and didn’t relate well with players. Athletics director Bill Byrne was reluctant to make the move, Loftin said. Texas A&M fired Sherman after a 6-6 regular season.

“Bill had to be really forced to do that,” Loftin said. “I don’t like doing that. That’s not my style.”

The next summer, Loftin hired South Carolina AD Eric Hyman to replace Byrne.

When it comes to Mizzou athletics, Loftin sees his role as an ambassador to donors and fans. He spends football game days on a meticulous schedule, meeting with high-dollar boosters, then visiting with students in the crowd. He likes to be in the locker room after games to watch the head coach’s postgame speech.

“I do not even think about trying to manage this (athletics) department independently of the AD,” he said. “I have a certain role to play in a few areas, coaching contracts for example. … But if the AD is not doing the job they should do, then we change ADs.”

MU presentation urges bystander intervention to combat sexual violence

By Roger McKinney
Monday, September 15, 2014 at 4:11 pm Comments (1)

If every incident of power-based personal violence is represented by a red dot on a map, a green dot could mark locations where someone intervened to prevent an incident.
Danica Wolf, coordinator of the Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Center at the University of Missouri, said she wants to counter and replace the red dots with green dots on campus. She gave a presentation on Green Dot Mizzou to a small group Monday in the MU Student Center as part of a week of events called Safe Mizzou 2014.

Wolf said sexual violence is among the most underreported crimes in the nation.

The university recently announced training for employees, students and others to make them aware of their responsibilities as mandated reporters under Title IX. A provision of the Education Amendments of 1972, Title IX prohibits sex discrimination, including sexual violence, in education.

An April 2011 letter from the U.S. Department of Education informed all schools receiving Title IX funding that they are obligated to investigate sexual assault claims reported by a student, a family member or a third party.

A 2008 incident involving a rape allegation against an MU athlete recently was reported by ESPN's "Outside the Lines" program. Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin acknowledged that the university should have initiated a Title IX investigation. The entire University of Missouri System started reviewing and revising its policies dealing with sexual assault response and mental health care earlier this year. The move came after an earlier ESPN report raised questions about whether some officials mishandled the alleged rape of another student athlete.

"We're really taking a critical look at the way we're approaching this," Wolf told participants.

Wolf said when a potentially violent situation arises, everyone has a choice to do something or to do nothing.

"It's all about making choices that make sense to you, that are safe," Wolf said.

She said when one person steps in, others usually will, too. "The power of peer influence, of seeing somebody else doing something, that power is huge," she said. "That's an easy bandwagon to jump onto."

She showed a video that included a man and a woman fighting on a subway car. A man wordlessly steps between them while continuing to eat his potato chips and the man and woman stop fighting.

"A moment of apathy can lead to a red dot," she said. "I know this is happening too often and I know one is too many."

She said intervention can be anything to approaching a confrontation and saying "Hey, is everything OK?" or otherwise distracting an aggressor, to calling police.

"It's always important to have safety in mind when you're deciding which intervention to use," Wolf said.
A Green Dot conference for students is scheduled for 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sept. 27 in the Gaines/Oldham Black Culture Center, 817 Virginia Ave. and the MU Council on Violence against Women meets at noon on Oct. 7 in the Memorial Student Union, 518 Hitt St.

Wolf said intervening doesn't always work.

"I'm not going to lie to you and say every green dot prevents a red dot," she said.

Brooke Burchill, an MU student who said she carries mace and a pocketknife for protection whenever she goes out, said she gained good information from the presentation.

"I think education is our biggest tool in our arsenal," she said.

Capt. Brian Weimer, public information officer with MU police, said he's familiar with the project and it doesn't require anyone to be confrontational or to put themselves at risk. He said calling police is usually the best action to take when a violent situation is happening.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

From the dusty attic to the showroom floor: Thomas Jefferson's restored grave marker has finally found a home

Monday, September 15, 2014 | 11:00 p.m. CDT; updated 7:24 a.m. CDT, Tuesday, September 16, 2014

COLUMBIA — Thomas Jefferson's grave marker has returned home to MU after undergoing an extensive restoration by the Smithsonian Institution. After being tucked away in the attic of Jesse Hall for years, MU inquired about restoring the marker as the marble began to deteriorate.

The Smithsonian agreed to pay for the restoration, and the restored relic was showcased for the first time Monday at the Missouri Theatre Center for the Arts before Jon Meacham's lecture, "Thomas Jefferson, The Art of Power."

While the commotion was centered around the relic's homecoming, a replica tombstone marker was strapped to The Jefferson Monument on MU's Francis Quadrangle on Monday to give people an idea of how the monument originally looked when it was dedicated to the university on July, 4, 1885. The marker was originally affixed to the
granite obelisk until it was removed for safekeeping in Academic Hall, which ironically burned to the ground on Jan. 9, 1892.

The tombstone marker will finally be given its well-deserved permanent home in Jesse Hall after renovations are completed. It will be featured in a display designed by MU architecture student Rachael Liberty, who won a student design competition hosted by MU Campus Facilities to display the historic grave marker.

*Thomas Jefferson’s tombstone has traveled more than 2,700 miles from when it was first built on the grounds of Monticello to its final resting place at MU. It was moved from the grounds of Monticello in the late 1830s for safety, as a donation to MU in 1885 and to the Smithsonian Institute for repairs in January 2013. It will be returned to the university during MU’s 175th anniversary week.*

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

College Avenue median near MU gets go-ahead

BY ALLISON GRAVES

COLUMBIA — **The median proposed for College Avenue cleared its final hurdle Monday night, paving the way for work to begin next summer.**

**The design**
The median will be 6 and a half feet at its highest point and will run between Rollins Street and Rosemary Lane. The bottom half will be concrete stamped to look like stone modeled after MU's White Campus, and the top half will be a black metal fence.

The median will include two mid-block crosswalks: one between Rosemary Lane and Wilson Avenue, and the other between Wilson Avenue and Bouchelle Avenue.

**The cost**
The total cost is $750,000. The Missouri Department of Transportation will pay $659,000, and the rest will be evenly split between MU and the city, which will draw from its annual sidewalk fund.
The vote
The council voted 5-2 in favor of the project. Sixth Ward Councilwoman Barbara Hoppe and Third Ward Councilman Karl Skala voted against it. Hoppe asked to table the vote. She wanted to see a Department of Transportation report about left-turn access into Wilson Avenue.

Mayor Bob McDavid insisted on voting Monday. "This is a safety issue," he said. "There have been multiple injuries."

Public input
Janet Hammen, chair of the East Campus Neighborhood Association, asked the council to revise the bill to allow more left turns into East Campus. She gathered 260 signatures supporting left turns onto and from Wilson Avenue, she said.

Hammen also spoke on behalf of the Gathering Place, an MU-affiliated bed and breakfast. She said the median will reroute the bed and breakfast's customers through East Campus or force them to make "dangerous" U-turns.

The Alpha Gamma Rho and Beta Theta Pi fraternities, which abut College Avenue, were also concerned about the placement of left-turns and crosswalks, Hammen said.

What's next?
The city will have to negotiate with surrounding property owners, including MU, Beta Theta Pi Fraternity and Christian Campus House to get construction easements.

Construction is scheduled to begin in late May 2015.

Columbia children's hospital gets kid-friendly MRI
COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — Young patients in need of an MRI at a Columbia children's hospital can now pretend to take beach vacations while they undergo magnetic resonance imaging.

The University of Missouri Health System's Women's and Children's Hospital has installed an MRI machine shaped like a sandcastle for its young patients.

Children who undergo the scans can don video goggles and headphones in an immersive experience while lying flat on their backs during procedures that can last up to 90 minutes.
The MRI room is decorated with paintings of palm trees and the ocean floor. It also has beach chairs for waiting parents.

Hospital officials say that fewer children require sedation to quell anxiety during the tests. The hospital conducts between 2,500 and 2,700 MIR scans of children annually.