

Intern Project Description Legrain Photographs

This project is intended to make photographs taken by Father Leon Legrain in 1925 and 1926 searchable by tagging important information contained within them. Visual records cannot easily be searched in the way that textual records can, i.e. by keywords, unless those words are somehow attached to the image. We are thus creating categories of things that might be of interest to researchers and that appear in the images. We are attaching those key categories and brief descriptions to the photos.

Penn Museum archives has all of these photos (as well as a few drawings that Legrain made) stored and we have already scanned them to make them digital. Now we need to tag them with appropriate keywords and we have designed a system to allow for this. However, we may have missed important categories and the intern will be the one who is in a position to spot real patterns in the images and point out important things missed. In this case, we can add a category and we encourage real thought in examining the images, not simple plugging in of categories already determined.

We also want a very brief description of important elements, such as: 'submarine at dock' (which I found to be a fascinating image by the way, and perhaps the number on its conning tower should be noted since this almost certainly identifies the submarine). Legrain not only took photos at the excavation site, but also on his journey to and from southern Iraq. This makes the sequence of photos even more important to historical researchers of the region, not just to archaeologists and researchers of Ur.

Legrain liked to take pictures of the local people, which again is of great importance to historians. In most cases the people cannot be identified, but some of the places might be identifiable by someone who knows the region. We can identify some people at the site of Ur and we will provide a help file of images of particular people who are likely to show up in some photos. On his drawings, Legrain sometimes identified the place and this is obviously important information to record. His handwriting is not always easy to read but we can help there. Don't be afraid to ask Brad or Kyra any and all questions.

There are about 150 of these photos and it would be terrific to get through all of them in the two weeks of intern time. This is the goal, but whether we reach it or not we will learn a great deal.

In scanning these images, Brad wrote up a few blog posts on Legrain's journey. You might want to read these posts for more information:

<http://www.penn.museum/blog/museum/ur-digitization-project-november-2013/>

<http://www.penn.museum/blog/museum/ur-digitization-project-january-2014/>

If you have any questions don't hesitate to ask Brad or Kyra!