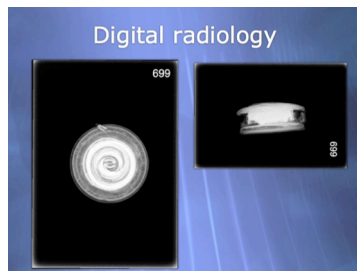


Molly O'Guinness Carlson  
Archaeological Conservator, CEO  
Head Tide Archaeological Conservation Laboratory  
009 project

Exhibit Title:

## *“Compliments of Sozodont...”*

### Artifact Stories from Discovery to Exhibit



Sozodont was an early toothpaste powder ca. 1859. This container was recovered from Iita, Greenland, Kingdom of Denmark by Dr. Genevieve LeMoine, Bowdoin College, Maine from the staging base-site where and MacMillan prepared for Arctic explorations ca. 1916. Conservation revealed that this container was comprised of white cellulose nitrate plastic, glass bottom, and iron lid with printing coated in cellulose nitrate. Cellulose nitrate can spontaneously combust when degraded, catalyzed by iron corrosion products. Radiology revealed the object use was... can you guess??? ... a tape measure. Imprinted with the Sozodont logo, this item was an advertising gimmick and was likely traded by MacMillan's crew to local Thule inhabitants. This is one of the earliest plastics recovered from an archaeological site. It is currently housed in the National Museum of Denmark.

#### EXHIBIT PHILOSOPHY:

“Compliments of Sozodont...” is a born digital exhibit featuring unusual artifacts recovered from archaeological sites around the world. Four voices each tell part of the artifact's story, the Archaeologist, the Conservator and the Museum Curator voices are given. This is an interactive exhibit where the audience's voice... your reaction to the artifact's story, is being collected as part of the artifact's ongoing story.

This online exhibition is designed to accompany a physical exhibit of these selected artifacts. iPads with keyboards will be mounted on pedestals in the gallery where museum visitors can contribute their comments.

Secondary exhibition can occur after the museum exhibit closes by posting the link to this online exhibit on the museum's website.

#### VOICES:

**Archaeologist:** These artifacts span one thousand years of human material culture and were recovered through archaeological excavations by the efforts of several different archaeologists. This is a variable data source that highlights the purpose of the excavations and the circumstances of finding specific artifacts.

Data: Continent, culture, time period, dig season, dig climate, pertinent information regarding the finding of the artifact. The archaeologist answers the question of "why the artifact is important to the overall knowledge of this culture?"

**Conservator:** Molly O'Guinness Carlson, Fellow of the American Institute for the Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (AIC) conserved all of these artifacts during the last 15 years. This is a common data source between the variety of archaeologists who find the artifacts and the variety of curators who exhibit the artifacts. Ms. Carlson is the relationship conduit between their voices.

Data: Pre-treatment condition examination documentation results that dictate the least intrusive treatment steps to do what the artifact needs in order to stabilize its condition. This can include testing results and information revealed while cleaning. The conservator answers the question "what was learned through the treatment of the artifact?"

**Curator:** Artifacts are exhibited to illustrate a narrative... a story that illuminates relationships and has a point of view. This is a variable data source that highlights why this artifact was chosen for exhibit and what we have learned through its study.

Data: The curator uses the artifact to illustrate a narrative. The curator answers the question "what is the role of this artifact in my narrative?"

**Audience:** The public viewer is a variable data source where reactions to the artifact's story are collected and become a new part of the artifact's story.

Digital Exhibit Platform:

Data: The audience makes connections to the artifact and their experience by asking questions or relating additional information. The audience answers the question "How did this artifact affect me?"

#### PLATFORM:

An Omeka.net website and the Omeka plugin link Shared Shelf (version 2.0 released January 8, 2015) a subscription-based online media management software tool from ARTstor to Omeka collections, will be used to exhibit the online information.

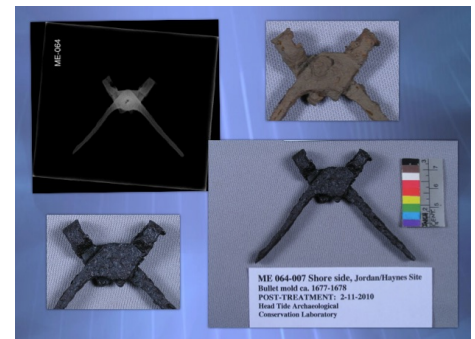
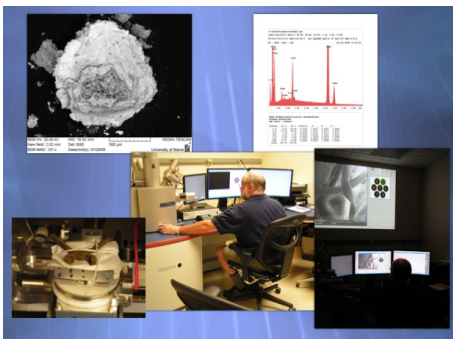
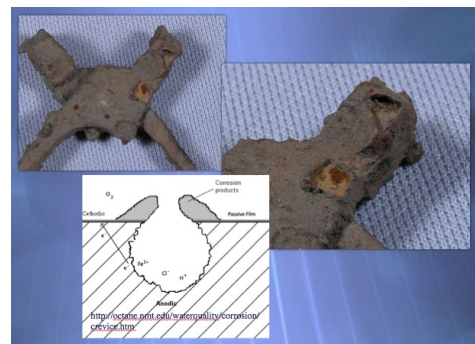
The voices of the archaeologist, conservator and curator will be displayed with images of the artifact, chronicling it's journey from the field, to the laboratory and to the museum exhibit.

Shared Shelf supports image files and associated metadata in a cloud based environment.

**Examples of Archaeological Site photos:** [stateof.creativecommons.org](http://stateof.creativecommons.org)



**Examples of Conservation Photos:**



### Examples of Museum Exhibit Photos:



### EXHIBIT CONTRIBUTOR: Plugin

Commenting <http://omeka.org/add-ons/plugins/commenting/>  
version 2.1.2 released Dec. 4, 2014

This plugin will allow an Exhibit visitor to add information such as questions or comments in regard to the exhibited artifact. This plugin supports many different languages.

## PLUGINS I NEED TO CREATE THAT ARE NOT IN OMEKA

1. Example of Generic Plugin map I need to create to show very generalized location of artifact origin sites: For archaeological site security, I cannot use a map that give precise locations because I do not want looters to target the site.



Creative Commons image: [stateof.creativecommons.org](http://stateof.creativecommons.org)

## 2. Repository PLUGIN

I am imagining that the Museum that owns the artifact and has lent it for this exhibit should be listed in a generic database so that it can be located by researchers once the exhibit is over. This plugin would simply list a thumbnail picture of the artifact, its catalogue number and the contact information for the Museum that owns it.