Naukratis Collection Project
Lauren Phillips ’19

History of Collection

Naukratis was a Greek trading post along the Nile Delta of Egypt in the 7th century BCE, becoming one of the earliest Greek settlements in Egypt. Naukratis continued to be occupied into the Roman period and even afterward.

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, excavations began to uncover Naukratis. However, archaeological research was mainly focused on the Greek presence in Naukratis, especially during the Archaic period, while ignoring the Roman and Egyptian evidence. This bias led to misrepresentation of Naukratis. Yet, more recent excavations attempt to rectify this.

The Naukratis material held in Bryn Mawr’s Special Collection is from the 1970s and 80s fieldwork, which was conducted by the Universities of Minnesota and Missouri. This past semester, I have been conducting the preliminary research on the pottery sherds recovered by the American archaeological surveys and small-scale excavations.

Skills Gained

• Created mounting boxes for ceramic artifacts
• Measured and photographed a variety of pottery sherds from the Naukratis collection
• Learned how to digitally edit photographs of the pottery sherds
• Utilized the computer program, Embark to upload data to online Special Collections catalogue

Learning Objectives

• Catalogue, process, and document artifacts in an official collections setting
• Measure, photograph, and store potsherds from Naukratis Collection
• Present research about a collection to the public

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