



PEABODY MUSEUM
of ARCHAEOLOGY & ETHNOLOGY

PRESS RELEASE

**Peabody Museum Receives IMLS Grant
to Preserve Maps, Plans, and Drawings**

(Cambridge, June 8, 2009) The Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology has been awarded a \$150,000 grant from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). Over the next eighteen months, the Museum will improve teaching and research access, preservation, and storage for its Map Collection of nearly 4,000 unique, hand-drawn and



Watercolor of mural painting, Temple of the Warriors, Chichen Itza, by Ann Axtell Morris. PM 46-34-20/26287. Works by Morris and others will be conserved and moved to a dedicated storage area for better preservation and access.

annotated documents dating as early as the 1840s. The unique historic maps and other documents from research expeditions are associated with the Museum's collections and with Harvard University's Department of Anthropology fieldwork of the past 140 years. They include ethnographic and linguistic field maps, site plans, large-sized watercolors and sketches of archaeological sites and artifacts from North, Central and South America and beyond. There are also architectural drawings documenting

American anthropological history as well as vital records of the Peabody Museum, the oldest museum dedicated to anthropology in the Western hemisphere. Jeffrey Quilter, Deputy Director and Curator of Intermediate Area collections, offers an example of one the collection's important highlights. "Alfred V. Kidder's work at Pucara, Peru was path-breaking. As in so many cases of Peabody Museum research, the investigations there were in the vanguard of research for its day and the materials remain highly important today. The Pucara work has been under-published and access to these materials is vital for ongoing scholarship."

Peabody Map Collection Highlights

- Early 20th century watercolor drawings of archaeological sites in the American Southwest and Mexico's Yucatan peninsula by archaeologist Ann Axtell Morris
- Maps and illustrations from Abri Pataud region in France
- The work of accomplished illustrator and Maya researcher Tatiana Proskouriakoff
- Hard-to-find maps of UNESCO World Heritage archaeological site Chan Chan, Peru
- Unpublished maps and drawings from the Lower Mississippi Valley Survey

The funds will partially support project staff and costs for rehousing supplies and cabinetry. Peabody Museum Senior Archivist India Spartz and museum conservators (Judy Jungels and T. Rose Holdcraft) are pleased that the grant will enable major organizational improvements and upgraded environmental conditions. The collection will be processed by site and updated information will be entered into the museum's collection management database. Museum staff will document, condition access, and rehouse in protective enclosures about 3000 flat documents, and conserve and rehouse 750 currently inaccessible rolled items. Digital images of selected items, uploaded to the Peabody Museum website, will provide increased public access and support preventive conservation efforts by limiting unnecessary physical retrieval and handling of oversized fragile documents.

The Peabody Museum has won generous support from The Institute of Museum and Library Services in the past to preserve the Museum's collections and create better access to it. IMLS is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 122,000 libraries and 17,500



Rolled documents currently stored in flat files. Photo by Judy Jungels.

museums. The Institute's mission is to create strong libraries and museums that connect people to information and ideas. Previous IMLS awards to Peabody Museum supported reformatting and rehousing original catalogue and accession records (1996) and environmental improvement for photographic archives (1992) along with several other conservation projects for selected at-risk collections.



Partially opened rolled document. Photo by Judy Jungels.

About the Peabody Museum

The Peabody Museum is among the oldest archaeological and ethnographic museums in the world with one of the finest collections of human cultural history found anywhere. It is home to superb materials from Africa, ancient Europe, North America,

Mesoamerica, Oceania, and South America in particular. In addition to its archaeological and ethnographic holdings, the Museum's photographic archives, one of the largest of its kind, hold more than 500,000 historical photographs, dating from the mid-nineteenth century to the present and chronicling anthropology, archaeology, and world culture.

Hours and location: 9 A.M. to 5 P.M., seven days a week. The Museum is closed on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day. Admission is \$9 for adults, \$7 for students and seniors, \$6 for children, 3–18. Free with Harvard ID or Museum membership. The Museum is free to Massachusetts residents Sundays, 9 A.M. to noon, year round, and Wednesdays from 3 P.M. to 5 P.M. (September to May). Admission includes admission to the Harvard Museum of Natural History. For more information call 617-496-1027 or go online to: www.peabody.harvard.edu. The Peabody Museum is located at 11 Divinity Avenue in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The Museum is a short walk from the Harvard Square MBTA station.

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