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Reflection

This research project gave me the opportunity to engage directly with collections at the Peabody Museum which is a very unique experience at Harvard. I really enjoyed working behind the scenes to contribute my newly acquired knowledge to a project for the benefit of the public. It combined both academic rigor with public interaction. One of the most beneficial parts of the project was learning how to communicate technical knowledge to the general public. Using an appropriate tone of voice in the blog posts was a challenge that many people, including myself, faced. Being able to accommodate a piece of writing to suit the audience is a valuable skill in all academic fields.

The biggest difference between my first and second posts was that in my second post, I had more of a direction in my writing. Keeping in mind the overarching question “What can we learn from this vessel?”, I tried to make my discussion more meaningful to this larger purpose. However, addressing the question was harder than I thought it would be because such a general question requires the vessel to be approached from many different angles. The sometimes limited scope of information on the vessel made it difficult to give a complete answer to the question. At other times it seemed that there was so much information and ways to approach the question that it was impossible to address all of them.

Overall, the project was a valuable learning experience and very enjoyable. The individual approach provided freedom in research and allowed it to be a very personalized project. Even though the students in the class come from a variety of disciplines, I think everyone gained something useful from the project.