

RE: publication re NMAI collection objects

Sowry, Nathan on behalf of NMAIArchives

Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 11:54 AM

To: DePriest, Paula

Cc: Kaplan, Emily; Beaubien, Harriet

Paula,

Yes, you have permission to “publish”/disseminate images of several hundred NMAI objects via the OCIO website. The only caveat, of course, would be to ensure that none of the images are of a restricted or culturally sensitive nature, as these should in no way be made publicly available.

Please let me know if you require anything further.

Thanks,
Nathan

Nathan Sowry | National Museum of the American Indian

Reference Archivist, Archive Center

Cultural Resources Center

4220 Silver Hill Rd.

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From: DePriest, Paula

Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 11:24 AM

To: NMAIArchives <NMAIArchives@si.edu>

Cc: Kaplan, Emily <KaplanE@si.edu>; Beaubien, Harriet <BeaubienH@si.edu>

Subject: FW: publication re NMAI collection objects

Importance: High

Hi

I need to talk with someone from the NMAI Archive Center about the request below as soon as possible – today is the deadline for fulfilling the Mellon Award by opening the on-line exhibit.

Please phone me at 301-238-1206

Paula

Paula T. DePriest, Ph.D.

Deputy Director

Museum Conservation Institute

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From: Beaubien, Harriet
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2017 9:38 PM
To: NMAICollections <NMAICollections@si.edu>
Cc: DePriest, Paula <DEPRIESTP@si.edu>
Subject: publication re NMAI collection objects

Greetings,

I am writing to request permission to disseminate the results of an objects-based research project on "Goldworking in Precolumbian Panama", which includes analysis of objects in NMAI's collection, undertaken between 2008 and 2010.

This phase was part of an overarching research project that I launched in 2006 (on-going), as a senior objects conservator (later head of conservation) at the Smithsonian's Museum Conservation Institution. Much of the NMAI work was carried out by Ainslie Harrison, who was a conservation fellow with me in 2008-09, and then a Mellon conservation fellow at NMAI for the following two years. Her work included photodocumentation, archival research, and non-invasive compositional and technical analysis of several hundred objects. The results were reported in internal MCI documents (under MCI #6100.2 part 2, and 6100.3), distributed to NMAI, and summarized in several publications. Other collections included in the research project are those from NMNH, the national museum in Panama City, as well as several scientifically excavated archaeological projects, including ones directed by personnel from the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute.

My current request concerns the "publication" of data for the entire research project (2006 to date) in SIIdora, through OCIO's website. SIIdora is a cloud-based SI-wide research data repository, the development of which – at OCIO – was funded by the Mellon Foundation a few years ago. The Panama Gold project – in conjunction with the archaeological investigation of Cerro Juan Diaz, led by STRI research archaeologist Dr. Richard Cooke – were selected as beta-test projects, because of the wide variety of data formats and the complex nature of these projects with collaborators in both the US and Panama. The information is organized by object (for each analyzed collection), with photos, and – for each collection – the relevant research reports that include charts with results of analysis.

I didn't find out until recently that the Mellon Foundation intended that the SIIdora data (some if not all) be made publicly available on OCIO's website, and permissions needed to be in place. Would you be able to grant this permission, and how should I proceed? Note that several hundred objects are involved. I would be able to send you the list by object number if that would be appropriate.

I would note that I retired from MCI in 2014, but retain Research Associate status and continue to be involved in various projects through MCI. Dr. Paula DePriest (MCI Deputy Director) and my former supervisor is copied on this message and would be able to answer any additional questions.

I'd be most appreciative of a response, as soon as possible.

With many thanks,

Harriet F. 'Rae' Beaubien
Research Associate, Museum Conservation Institute, Smithsonian Institution
Santa Fe, New Mexico