

#### 7.4 *On-site finds handling*

This season we'll find hundreds of thousands of artifacts, mostly broken pottery. When you start digging each morning, the trench supervisor needs to make one person in the team responsible for setting out finds buckets. Take turns at this job. Each finds bucket should have a strip of tape on it labeling it by trench number, trial trench (if relevant), layer number, the day's date, and the category of finds. Use the following categories: fine ware, coarse ware, pithos, bone/shell, and small finds. You'll normally need at least one bucket per layer and trial trench for each category. Depending on the nature of the deposit, you may need other buckets. If you're working in medieval layers, you'll need a tile bucket too.

You need a complete set of buckets for each layer that you're working in, and for each trial trench that's operating. Ideally, each trench will only be working in one layer at a time. The more layers you work in, and the more buckets are going at once, the higher the likelihood of mixing things up.

As you finish each layer, bag the finds from each bucket separately. Put all the finds in a plastic bag, then put that bag inside a second bag. Fill out two finds labels (there are pre-printed labels, on which you enter the same data as on the context sheet). You put the first label between the two plastic bags, and pass the string that you use to tie the necks of the bags through the hole in the second label. The double-bagging is because thin plastic breaks down over 20 or 30 years in the storerooms (particularly with help from rats and mice), and the finds will get mixed. In Greece people have been using plastic rather than cloth bags since the 1960s, and in my experience double-bagged finds from 35-40 years ago are still fine. Double-tagging is for similar reasons; a single tag can easily get separated from the bag. Make sure that you put the first tag (between the bags) with the written part facing out. When you're washing the pottery (see section 8.1 below) make sure that you protect the labels by wrapping them carefully inside the plastic bags. If they get wet they disintegrate, and you're going to have to write them out again.

When you close up a layer, bag the finds and put them in a shady place. Don't tie the tops of the bags till you leave the site at the end of the day, because sherds sealed in plastic in hot weather "sweat," releasing the moisture they've soaked up while they were underground. If there's nowhere for this to go it creates an atmosphere inside the bag like a sauna, which does a lot of damage.

Small finds require different treatment. As soon as they're removed from the ground, fill out labels and bag them. It's easy to lose small finds because (a) they're small and (b) they tend to weigh very little, so the wind can pick up a bag containing a bead or a single sherd. You should either put the small finds immediately into someone's back pack (remember whose!) or weight the finds down with a rock. Use judgment: don't put a big rock on a fragile bone ornament.

Finally, **make sure** that the director or assistant director takes a look through the fine ware and small finds from **every** layer (and ideally the other finds too) before you close the bags. Enter the information to enter in the "finds" section on the context sheet, and use these reviews as a chance to get familiar with the material culture yourself. Even if you're confident in your skills at dating the finds, make sure someone else looks over them too.

## 7.5 *Schedule*

### 7.5.1 Calendar

Trinity Jackman is teaching the course “Archaeological fieldwork in the Mediterranean” (Classics 150/250/Arch 113) in spring quarter 2004. To participate in the dig Stanford students must take and pass this course with a B or better.

The excavation runs from July 12th until August 24th. If you’re coming directly from the US to Sicily, you need to leave America on Sunday July 11th, to arrive in Palermo on Monday July 12th. Everyone will leave on Wednesday August 25th.

There are six weeks of digging. In the first week we’ll work Saturday (July 17th), to get things off to a good start, and in the last week we’ll work Saturday (August 21st) because we’ll be panicking over time. The other weeks we’ll work 5 days, Monday through Friday. Every season some people express a preference for having Friday and Saturday off rather than Saturday and Sunday. We’ll look into this again in 2004, but in the past it’s presented some serious logistical difficulties, so don’t hold your breath.

We’ll do our best to make transport available on weekends so that people can make trips to visit other parts of Sicily, though **we can’t guarantee that cars will always be available**. There are a lot of good places to visit near Salemi, with beaches at Selinunte and Castellamare del Golfo (both half an hour’s drive) and Zingaro (45 minutes or so). Selinunte has a lot of good fish restaurants, and Scopello, a little town near Zingaro, is also excellent. Zingaro is a large nature preserve—a rare thing on Sicily—with miles of hiking through woods and hills. If you want a hard-core tourist town, carry on past Zingaro to San Vito lo Capo and the extreme north tip of the peninsula. Erice, about an hour away, is mainly medieval and has good restaurants, though some people find the drive up there hair-raising. There are great archaeological sites to visit at Selinunte, Segesta (twenty minutes away), and Mozia (45 minutes). Palermo has many things to see, and so too Trapani and Marsala (all about an hour). Gibellina (both Nuova and Ruderì) and Corleone are also worth visiting; and a couple of hours away there are amazing Greek temples at Agrigento. If you want to go further afield, you can get to the east coast by car in about 4 hours to visit Siracusa, or 5-6 hours to Taormina. If you have the energy and leave right after digging on Friday, you could get there in time for dinner.

Gas is expensive in Europe, and we can’t pay for non-business travel. If you go anywhere in dig vehicles, **you’re responsible for replacing the gas you use**. The best thing is just to bring the car back with the same amount of gas as when you took it. If you can’t do that, then give Brien Garnand money to get more gas. He’ll give you a receipt.

Two important points if you want to make a trip that involves staying away from Salemi overnight. First, book hotels ahead. Things get very busy in the summer. Take guidebooks, and visit the Tourist Agency in town, which mostly worked out well last year (be warned: they speak little or no English). Most hotels demand fax reservations. The Tourist Agency can do this for you, or you can send faxes from the stationery store in the old town. Second, **anytime you’re away from the dig house, leave full details with Brien Garnand**: who’s in your party, which car you’re in, where you’re staying, a phone number at the hotel, and, if anyone in your group has a cell phone, its number. We have to have this information, in case any emergencies come up while you’re away

The last day of digging is Saturday August 21st. A few of us will spend that weekend taking the final-state photographs of the site, but we need **everyone** back for Monday-Tuesday August 23rd-24th, so please don’t make any plans that might interfere with that. On Monday

23rd we'll be doing two things. The first is backfilling, covering the excavated parts of the site with plastic and earth to protect them from rain over the winter. The second is transporting the finds from the dig house lab to the museum in Salemi. Neither of these is much fun, but we need all hands to do them.



Fig. 7.25 Backfilling zone A, 2003

On Tuesday August 5th we'll clean the dig house. Also no fun, but we're the city's guests while we're in Salemi, and the least we can do is return their property in good condition. Everyone should leave on Wednesday August 25th. All the rented vehicles are due back that day or on the 24th. If you want to stay in Sicily beyond the 25th you'll need to take care of your own accommodation and transport.

Arranging to get everyone back to the airport for their flights, or to other points of departure, is very complicated. Brien Garnand will collect information from you when you're in Salemi. **It's your responsibility to give him accurate information and to cooperate with the schedule.** If you don't, you'll have to find your own way back to the airport.

Some of you will also be spending periods working with the Total Stations, flotation, or lab teams. You may have a slightly different schedule because of this.

### 7.5.2 Daily schedule

We'll normally leave the dig house at 6.30 a.m., and work on site till about 2.30 p.m. (depending on the temperature). If it gets really hot, we'll leave at 6 a.m. and stop earlier. On site we'll normally take a ten-minute mid-morning break at 9 a.m. and a thirty-minute lunch break at 11.00 a.m., but our schedule has to be flexible, and we may need to vary this routine. On Fridays there'll be a site tour, so you can keep up-to-date on what's going on, and see where your own bit of the puzzle fits in.

The best part of the day for temperature and visibility on-site is the first few hours, so **it's very important that we leave the dig house promptly.** That means getting your breakfast and preparing some lunch by 6.20, and leaving as soon as the drivers are ready. When we

arrive at site you'll climb up a path from the parking area to the acropolis. Again, it's important that we get started as soon as we can once we're on site. We aim to start work by 7 a.m.

The afternoons are free. Dinner is served at the dig house around 8 p.m. Depending on the volume of finds, each team will need to spend an hour or so each day cleaning the finds they've made. It's up to each trench team whether you want to do this as soon as you get back to the dig house or in the hour before dinner, so long as it gets done.

If you're organized about it, there should be time for you to make afternoon trips to the nearest beaches. However, **it's not OK to miss pot washing. Nor is it OK to miss dinner**, unless you've told Brien Garnand at least a day in advance, so he can tell the cooks. The cooks work very hard preparing the food, and are understandably upset if people don't show up.

Some days your trench won't generate many finds. When that happens, you should expect to be asked by your zone supervisor to help other teams that do have a lot of material.

Most evenings are free, but may be some lectures about the progress of the dig and specific skills. There'll also be regular announcements after dinner.

### *7.6 Project staff*

The Stanford team will include about thirty undergraduates, graduates, postdocs, and faculty from Stanford, and a larger number of members from other institutions. The main groups joining us in 2004 come from the University of British Columbia, the University of Michigan, the University of Rome "La Sapienza," and the American Academy in Rome.

Other teams, from Gothenburg and Northern Illinois Universities, will be working at Monte Polizzo before we get there, but will have gone by July 12th. A small team from Gothenburg may overlap with our season. There may also be volunteers from Salemi and other local towns, some of whom might be staying in the dig house.

The Stanford team has the following staff:

Ian Morris, Director ([imorris@stanford.edu](mailto:imorris@stanford.edu))

Trinity Jackman, Assistant Director ([tjackman@stanford.edu](mailto:tjackman@stanford.edu))

Emma Blake, Assistant Director, Director of Finds ([ecblake@umich.edu](mailto:ecblake@umich.edu))

Brien Garnand, Assistant Director ([bgarnand@stanford.edu](mailto:bgarnand@stanford.edu))

Rob Schon, Survey ([rschon@stanford.edu](mailto:rschon@stanford.edu))

Bengt Westergaard, Digital Recording ([arkbw@hum.gu.se](mailto:arkbw@hum.gu.se))

Chris Sevara, Digital Recording ([csevara@uswest.net](mailto:csevara@uswest.net))

Anne Haabu, Conservation ([a.k.habu@ukm.uio.no](mailto:a.k.habu@ukm.uio.no))

Karin Olsson, Lab Assistant Director ([kmjolsson@yahoo.se](mailto:kmjolsson@yahoo.se))

Hans Peter Stika, Botanical Analysis ([stika@uni-hohenheim.de](mailto:stika@uni-hohenheim.de))

Tara Hnatiuk, Animal Bones ([noellehnatiuk@hotmail.com](mailto:noellehnatiuk@hotmail.com))

We depend heavily on support from the Mayor's Office and particularly the Tourist Office in Salemi, run by Dr. Niccolò Spagnolo. Dr Spagnolo doesn't speak English, but is the best source of information for most things in Salemi, and knows an enormous amount about local archaeology.

### 7.7 *Organizational structure*

Most people on this project are volunteers, donating their time, but we still have to have an organizational structure and chain of command.

On site: If there's any confusion, you should normally do what your trench supervisor says, or what the Total Station staff say. Trinity Jackman is the assistant director responsible for the site; she can overrule the trench supervisors. The nature of excavation means that sometimes there are disagreements over stratigraphy or strategy that can't be resolved. When this happens, it's not obvious who's right and who's wrong, but the project has to move ahead, so the assistant director makes the call. If you don't like what the assistant director says, we need you to do it anyway, then take it up later with the director.

In the lab: Emma Blake is the assistant director responsible for the lab. Most people in the lab work directly with her, but some will be working on other projects (e.g., conservation, with Anne Haabu). Dr Blake oversees all projects in the lab, so her word is final. Again, if you don't like what the assistant director says, we need you to do it anyway, then take it up later with the director.

In the dig house: Brien Garnand is the assistant director responsible for project management. He oversees all logistical aspects of the project. He arranges schedules for cleaning, table-setting, buying food and other supplies, use of cars, and arrangement of rooms. His word is final in all these areas. As usual, if you don't like what the assistant director says, we need you to do it anyway, then take it up later with the director.

The assistant directors are responsible not only for the smooth functioning of the project but also for everyone's safety, so if you don't cooperate with them, you'll have to leave the project. So far this has never happened.

If you're unhappy with the way any or all of the assistant directors are doing things, talk to the director. The director may overrule decisions made by the assistant director(s), but if this doesn't lead to a satisfactory resolution, you have the options of doing what the director and assistant director(s) anyway, or leaving the project.

If you're unhappy with the director, you can pursue the matter back at Stanford after the excavation. Since Ian Morris is Director of the Stanford Archaeology Center as well as the Monte Polizzo excavation, there's no point talking to him, but you can discuss the issues with Richard Martin, Chair of the Classics department ([rpmartin@stanford.edu](mailto:rpmartin@stanford.edu)), Karen Cook, the Archaeology Center's Dean ([kcook@stanford.edu](mailto:kcook@stanford.edu)), Arnold Rampersad, the Classics Department's Dean ([rampersad@stanford.edu](mailto:rampersad@stanford.edu)), or John Bravman, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education ([bravman@stanford.edu](mailto:bravman@stanford.edu)).

You have the right to be treated in a professional and courteous manner at all times by all members of the project, whether they're from Stanford or not. If that doesn't happen, come to the director about it. If this doesn't lead to a satisfactory resolution, you should file a complaint with one of the people at Stanford listed in the previous paragraph.