

The Study Collection

One of the first suggestions for implementation that Eleazar Lipa Sukenik brought before the University administration was the consolidation of its antiquities collection so that it would serve as a teaching and learning aid. Besides focusing on the past of the Jewish people in the Land of Israel and the Diaspora, there was a clear objective to study other cultures in the Land of Israel and its environs, such as Transjordan, Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Anatolia, Mesopotamia, Cyprus, and Greece from the early periods and throughout the Islamic era.

In addition to the original ancient artifacts, the Collection also included replicas of especially important finds relating to the history of the Jewish people.

Coins were an important part of the study collection from its outset. Stella Ben-Dor, who was in charge of this collection, laid the foundations for its cataloguing system. Her focus on the study of the city-coins in Roman Palestine as well as on the study of Jewish coinage was the driving force behind the growth of the collection.

The collection of the Prehistory Department was founded in the 1930s by Moshe Stekelis, one of the first investigators of the prehistoric periods at the Hebrew University. The collection existed for many years as an independent unit, however, like the general collection, it contains artifacts for study purposes from sites in Israel and abroad as well as assemblages from excavations. The collection contains artifacts from the excavations undertaken by the first prehistorians in the Levant and includes René Neuville's material from his studies in the Galilee and the Judaean Desert. The collection also contains finds from the University's excavations at sites such as Gesher Benot Ya'aqov and the Qafzeh and Kebara Caves.

Pottery vessels from the end of the Archaic and the Classical periods in Greece (6th–4th c. BCE). Gift of the National Archaeological Museum, Athens.



Photo: Gabi Laron

A hoard of 11 coins of Tyrian *sheqalim* was found on Mount Scopus during construction of the Rosenblum Building for Jewish Studies. Tyre began minting autonomous silver coins in denominations of a *sheqel* and half *sheqel* in 127 BCE. These coins were used to pay taxes to the Temple in Jerusalem.



Photo: Gabi Laron

Obverse: Head of Melqart-Heracles, chief god of Tyre
Reverse: Eagle and Greek inscription:
“Of Tyre the Holy and City of Refuge.”



The Archaeological Collections Hall before the move to the