

2008 POGGIO COLLA FIELD NOTEBOOK ASSIGNMENT

Purpose

The notebook assignment has been created for you to learn the practice of archaeological record keeping. Trench Supervisors keep a notebook that stands as the official documentation of their trench. It records the stratigraphy, finds, and features found during the season of excavation. Plans of the trench, scaled find sketches, stratigraphical profiles, and photographic records join daily narrative descriptions as the integral records of the trench's activities. The perfectly kept trench notebook will allow future researchers to reconstruct how the trench was excavated, and how its finds relate to the site as a whole.

The Assignment

You will keep an excavation journal which will be handed in at the end of season and graded (10% of your course grade). The journal should be a bound notebook that is **only** used as your field notebook (your lecture notes and travel journals should be kept in a separate notebook). You should take the time to write a **minimum of three daily entries in your notebook per week**. These entries are part of the excavation process and must be done while you are on site.

Each entry should include then following.

- 1) The Date and Trench Number or Survey Lines
- 2) Each morning your Trench or Survey Supervisor will update you on the trench/survey before you start work. You should write a few sentences on the status of the trench/survey you are working in that day (what stratum you are digging in, what has been found, and any current theories of the relationship of the trench to the rest of your site, etc.).
- 3) One or two paragraphs of excavation narrative for that day, which includes your observations of the excavation process (including finds, stratum changes, or new features).
- 4) At **least** 2 illustrations per day. These can be of finds, a trench plan, or stratigraphic profile. All sketches must be done to scale.

At the end of the notebook you will write a final report (2-3 pages) that summarizes the season's work at Poggio Colla. This is your chance to combine the knowledge you gained from working in all the trenches and the survey. What observations did you make? What is relationship of each trench to the other ones? What similarities in stratigraphy were there? What about finds and architecture? How has this season's work influenced our view of the site?

You must hand your notebook in to Professor Thomas **no later than 8pm on Monday July 31st**.