

Chris Winger

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Mentor: Peter Wells, Anthropology

Conservation of Ancient Swords and Other Iron Artifacts in the Department of Anthropology Collection

The Department of Anthropology at the University of Minnesota acquired a particular collection of iron artifacts in the early 1930s by way of an expedition conducted by an eccentric professor, Arthur Jenks. The artifacts, almost 30 in all were very poorly documented by Jenks and perhaps as a result, sat in storage for over 70 years in a very poor state of conservation. In 2006, they were brought out of storage and I began a project to properly conserve and catalog these objects. First, they were assigned unique numbers and entered into the Department's artifact accession catalog. Then, special trays were created to house the artifacts in a stable environment, preventing further deterioration. Finally, research was undertaken to determine their provenience (when and where they were created) and their original function. The methods used in conserving these artifacts for this project are representative of standard archaeological conservation methods.



Poster Number: Session: