

Egypt Centre Numbering Systems

Introduction

The system for numbering objects in the Egypt Centre collection is rather complex and often difficult for people to understand. Objects are always identified by their accession number, which is listed in the field of the same name in the online catalogue and should be quoted in any publications or email enquiries. All accession numbers carry a prefix (before the number), which can often reveal more details about its history.

Legacy issues mean that some objects have multiple numbers associated with them. Numbers that are no longer in use are included in the "Other Identity" field of the online catalogue. For example, objects that could not be matched to previous "W" numbers were given new "EC" numbers. For objects that had already been assigned two or more numbers, the lowest "W" number was retained. If objects that were given "EC" numbers could be matched with "W" numbers, the latter is used as the current accession number when possible. Therefore, the old numbering system is retained.

The purpose of this section is to help researchers with any queries they might have with prefixes and suffixes.

Prefixes

Numerous prefixes are associated with objects in the Egypt Centre collection, as outlined below.

W Prefix

The majority of the objects in the Egypt Centre collection carry a "W" prefix. This system was introduced by the first Honorary Curator, Dr Kate Bosse-Griffiths, when the nucleus of the collection arrived in Swansea from the Wellcome Institute in 1971. While the "W" prefix clearly relates to Wellcome material, this numbering system was also used for other objects accessioned into the collection, regardless of whether they originated from the Wellcome Institute. For example, W1982 was gifted to Swansea in 1982 by the Exeter Royal Albert Memorial Museum (RAMM). "W" numbers with an uppercase C at the end indicates that they originated from the National Museum of Wales, Cardiff, who gifted them to Swansea in 1983 and 1984 (see suffixes below). This numbering system was used from 1971 until 1997.

EC Prefix

The "EC" prefix was introduced in 1997 by Dr Carolyn Graves-Brown, who was appointed the first Curator of the Egypt Centre in 1997. This prefix was given to objects that could not be identified by an accession number at this time, mainly because labels or stickers had become detached. In the proceeding years it has been possible to pair up some "EC" numbers with "W" numbers, but this process is ongoing. The "EC" prefix was also given to objects that were accessioned into the Egypt Centre collection from 1997 onwards.

AB Prefix

The "AB" prefix identifies objects gifted in 1997 by the University of Wales, Aberystwyth.

AR Prefix

The “AR” prefix identifies objects that originated from the 1930s Egypt Exploration Society excavations at Armant. Most, if not all, of this material was catalogued at University College London in 1950 and the original numbering system has thus been retained.

AX Prefix

The “AX” prefix identifies one object currently on long-term loan from Swansea Museum, whose accession number has been retained. See also the “SM” prefix.

BM Prefix

The “BM” prefix identifies objects currently on long-term loan from the British Museum, whose accession numbers have been retained.

C Prefix

The “C” prefix identifies a group of coins currently on long-term loan from the Department of Classics at Swansea University. See also the “LHC” prefix.

GR Prefix

The “GR” prefix identifies objects catalogued as Graeco-Roman material by Kate Bosse-Griffiths.

LGibbs Prefix

The “LGibbs” prefix identifies objects loaned to the collection by Mrs Gibbs in memory of her husband David Lawrence Gibbs (1908–1976).

LC Prefix

The “LC” prefix identifies a small group of objects gifted to the collection from the National Museum of Wales, Cardiff, in 1983.

LHC Prefix

The “LHC” Prefix identifies a group of coins currently on long-term loan from the Department of History and Classics at Swansea University. See also the “C” prefix.

LIH Prefix

The “LIH” prefix identifies a group of objects loaned to the collection by Ivor Hitchings.

P Prefix

The “P” prefix identifies two watercolours by Ernest Harold Jones (1877–1911). The acquisition of these watercolours is currently unknown.

PM Prefix

The “PM” prefix identifies a group of objects gifted to the collection by Prys Morgan.

SM Prefix

The “SM” prefix identifies objects currently on long-term loan from Swansea Museum, whose accession numbers have been retained. See also the AX prefix.

SN Prefix

The “SN” prefix was assigned to some objects in the collection prior to 1997. While its exact meaning is currently undetermined, it possibly means “sans number” (without number) and was given as a temporary designation to objects missing their proper inventory number. See also the prefix “WSN”.

VAD Prefix

The “VAD” prefix identifies objects purchased from the collection of Vincent Anthony Donohue (1944–2016).

WSN Prefix

The “WSN” prefix was assigned to some objects in the collection prior to 1997. While its exact meaning is currently undetermined, it possibly means “sans number” (without number) and was given as a temporary designation to objects missing their proper inventory number. See also the prefix “SN”.

WK Prefix

The “WK” prefix identifies objects currently on long-term loan from Woking College.

Suffixes

Some accession numbers also carry a suffix (after the number), which usually separates a group of objects under one number. For example, W500a through W500i represent a group of nine objects. In this case, suffixes are always written in lowercase. While these numbers commonly indicate that the objects are somehow connected, this is not always the case. “W” numbers with an uppercase “C” at the end indicates that they originated from the National Museum of Wales, Cardiff, who gifted them to Swansea in 1983 and 1984.