PROVENANCE MAPPING PROJECT
ASSIGNMENT GUIDELINES

In teams of 3, students will conduct research on the provenance (history of ownership) of an object from Wheaton’s Permanent Collection. Teams will choose an object from a list of 10-15 options, which will be posted on Google Drive. After reviewing the list, teams should email Professor Niederstadt with their top three choices of object by the start of class on Thursday, 12 September 2013. One of these choices will be assigned to your team.

Each team will author a 5- to 6-page report on its provenance research and produce a Google Earth map charting the object’s movement over time and space prior to its acquisition into the collection. Team projects will also be presented in class. To ensure teams do NOT leave work on their projects until the last minute, components are due throughout the semester.

- Team Statement of Expectations – Due Tuesday, 17 September 2013
- Annotated Bibliography (4% of final grade) – Due Thursday, 26 September 2013
- Progress meeting with Professor Niederstadt – Week Seven
- Map (8% of final grade) – Due Thursday, 24 October 2013
- Report (8% of final grade) – Due Tuesday, 29 October 2013
- Presentation (4% of final grade) – Due Tuesday, 29 October 2013

Basics
It is important to remember that research is a process, one that can be exciting, frustrating, satisfying, and tedious. You will find that records are often incomplete, either because documents have been lost, modified, or destroyed or because many types of information were never recorded in the first place. (The latter is particularly true with objects deemed “anthropological” or “ethnographic” and/or for artwork produced outside of Europe or North America.) On any research project, you are certain to encounter dead ends or to have gaps that cannot be filled. This is especially true for provenance research. Therefore, some teams may be unable to identify the complete provenance for the object they select. In such cases, I expect you to hypothesize as to where the object may have been and to support your hypothesis with evidence from your research. You will have to be creative and wide-ranging in your search for sources. You will need to use books, exhibition catalogues, archival and collection records, academic journals, popular press, census records, and/or other resources, both in print and digital formats. You may even have to contact museums or auction houses in search of information.

As a team, you must view your team’s object and accompanying documentation by Friday, 20 September 2013. To do so, make an appointment with me.

Sources
- Use at least 7 sources, one of which must be a physical book.
- Research a diverse set of sources.
- Include a bibliography, providing a full Chicago-Style citation for each source.
- The paper file for the object counts as one source, even if it contains multiple documents. If available, the donor file may count as another source. Each document used from object/donor files must be cited individually. For example, if a file contains a letter from a donor and an auction catalogue, these must be listed separately in your bibliography.
- If you need help finding sources, please contact Amy Barlow, Humanities Liaison, or me.
Team Statement of Expectations – Due Tuesday, 17 September 2013

- In total, your contributions to and participation in this assignment account for 24% of your final grade. Each of you is expected to contribute equally to the project, as you will share a grade, barring a major documented failure of a team member to contribute. If such an instance occurs, s/he might earn a lower grade for this assignment.
- To ensure that your expectations for yourself and of each other are clear, each team is required to submit a Statement of Expectations.
- Your team’s Statement of Expectations should be a maximum of 500 words and should be submitted in hard copy. It should be single-spaced with 1-1.25” margins, and 12 pt. font. You may use bullets and/or complete sentences. It should include the following:
  - Your work plan, which must include:
    - Planned team meetings and a schedule of tasks with completion dates. Possible tasks include: make an appointment to view the object and related files; view object and files; research time periods, locations, and/or owners for the object; draft the AB; proofread the AB; identify images; draft text for placemarks; add placemarks to the Google Earth map; draft the report; proofread the report and placemark text; test the map; rehearse in-class presentation, etc.
    - Tasks can be done individually or in collaboration. However, each individual:
      - Must author text for and create at least one placemark, which must also include an image, on your team’s Google Earth map;
      - Must conduct research on the object’s provenance; and
      - Must speak during the in-class presentation.
    - Plans for staying in touch with other members of the group. These must be explicit and include contact information.
    - Contingency plans detailing what happens if someone does not complete a task or misses a meeting, or if you get off schedule. For example, “Failure to complete a task will solicit one email/day for two days followed by an email to Professor Niederstadt explaining the situation.”
    - Designation of a liaison to communicate with me.
    - Names and signatures of all group members with dates.
  - The final aspect of this part of the assignment is a brief review (250 words) of your Statement of Expectations signed by all group members. Please include it with your Provenance Map and Report on 29 October 2013. This should follow the formatting guidelines indicated above and explain how each member contributed including identification of who created which placemarks. Your review should also describe any challenges and explain how they were resolved.

Annotated Bibliography - Due Thursday, 26 September 2013
Each team must submit an annotated bibliography (AB) based on its preliminary research. Please follow the AB guidelines, which are posted on onCourse, as are examples of ABs.

Progress meeting – Week Seven
Each team must make an appointment to meet with me as a team during Week Seven (7-11 October 2013) to discuss progress on your project.
Google Earth Map - Due Thursday, 24 October 2013

On Thursday, 12 September 2013, Jenni Lund, Senior Faculty Technology Liaison, will lead an in-class Google Earth workshop. During this workshop, you will learn how to create a Google Earth map, to add placemarks (including images and text) to it, and to create a “tour” of your map. Please download Google Earth to your laptop prior to the workshop (see the link on onCourse). Over the course of this project, if you need help with Google Earth, please contact Ms. Lund at jlund@wheatoncollege.edu.

Each team’s map should include a placemark for every location that can be identified (with some degree of certainty) with the object. Each placemark should include approximately a paragraph of narrative text (100-125 words) describing the relevant information associated with the object and that location. Such information may include: dates; a description of the location and/or how and why the object was located there; and the name(s) and occupation(s) of key actors, such as the artist, owner, dealer, etc. You may also include hyperlinks to other resources of interest, for example, an auction house website; be certain to clearly explain the relevance of any hyperlinks. **Think of your placemarks as telling the story – or “tour” – of your object’s provenance.**

**All of your placemarks should include an image.** Images are available from a variety of sources, including MDID, ARTstor, and Flickr. Please make use of the “Finding Images” link on onCourse.

To submit your team’s map, email it as a single KMZ file (a compressed Google Earth folder) to me. Remember to test your map before submitting it. A thorough test includes mailing the KMZ file to yourself, opening it on a public computer, and then testing all aspects of it, including any hyperlinks and the “tour”.

Research Report – Due Tuesday, 29 October 2013

Each team is required to write a 5- to 6-page report on its project. It should be double-spaced with 1-1.25” margins, and 12 pt. font. Be certain to include a bibliography and page numbers. Images and the bibliography do not, however, count toward the page requirement.

The report should explain your team’s research process, clearly detailing the challenges and successes you encountered and indicating the dead ends you faced and how you attempted to resolve them. You should also describe the provenance of your team’s object, as best as you were able to determine it. **Remember to include your review of your team’s Statement of Expectations with your report.**

On Tuesday, 10 September 2013, Professor Ruth Foley will lead a short workshop on collaborative writing to offer advice and guidance on this aspect of the assignment.

In-Class Presentation – Due Tuesday, 29 October 2013

Your team will present your provenance research to the class, using your Google Earth map. At the start of your presentation, identify the object, and state what was known about its provenance when your research began. Then explain what information you were able to confirm as accurate, as well as what turned out to be incorrect, and what additional information your research revealed. Each team’s presentation should be approximately 10-15 minutes long.

As always, please email me with any questions or concerns or post them to the VOH site.