

# DENNIS PIECHOTA

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSERVATOR

Dennis Piechota is the archaeological conservator of the Fiske Center for Archaeological Research at the University of Massachusetts at Boston where he conserves finds from the Center's terrestrial archaeological sites and conducts research in micromorphology, micro-excavation and elemental analysis of artifacts and the soil matrix. He is also part of the adjunct faculty of the Institute for Archaeological Oceanography, University of Rhode Island, where he conducts research on deep water archaeological preservation. He has been a conservator of archaeological artifacts for 38 years initially serving as conservator of the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Harvard University, from 1970 to 1978.

### SELECTED EXTERNAL PROJECTS

- Black Sea Deep Water Archaeological Project, Institute for Exploration, Mystic, CT (2003- present)  
Chief conservator for site preservation and environmental analysis as it relates to the preservation of cultural materials as well as the field treatment of ceramic and wood underwater archaeological artifacts excavated from the Sinop D archaeological site in the Black Sea.
- Ashkelon Deep Water Archaeological Project, Institute for Exploration, Mystic, CT (1999)  
Chief conservator for field and laboratory-based treatments of metal, glass, and ceramic underwater archaeological artifacts excavated from 400 meter depths in the Mediterranean Sea.
- Harvard Semitic Museum, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA (1998- present).  
Design and oversight of conservation procedures for 8000 cuneiform tablets in the Mesopotamian archaeological collection.
- Skerki Deep Water Archaeological Project, Sea Research Foundation, Groton, CT (1997)  
Chief conservator for field and laboratory-based treatments of metal, glass, and ceramic underwater archaeological artifacts excavated from 800 meter depths in the Mediterranean Sea.
- New York State Museum, Albany, NY (1997).  
Conducted major conservation survey of archaeology and ethnology collections emphasizing storage improvements.
- Robert Hull Fleming Museum, University of Vermont, Burlington, VT (1996).  
Conducted conservation survey of collections and treated the highest priority artifacts.
- Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Harvard University, (1991).  
Surveyed for condition and packed a 30,000 object collection of Native American ethnographic and archaeological stone and ceramics recently acquired by the museum.
- Jason Project, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute (1989-90).  
Laboratory conservator of marine archaeological artifacts excavated during deep sea robotic exploration of Mediterranean Sea.
- Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA (1988-1990).  
Conservator of ceramic, stone and metal artifacts for the new Hall of the North American Indian. NEA funded.

*EDUCATION*

- Certificate in Conservation, Smithsonian Institution. (1973)  
Anthropology Conservation Laboratory apprenticeship program.  
M.A. in Archaeology, Brown University. (1984)  
M.A. thesis research on the 16th and 17th Century Andalusian pottery tradition in Ubeda,  
Spain  
B.A. in Anthropology/Sociology, Long Island University. (1975)

*SELECTED PAPERS*

- 2008 D. Piechota and C. Giangrande, "Conservation of Archaeological Finds from Deep-Water Wrecksites." in Archaeological Oceanography edited by Robert Ballard, Princeton University Press (in press).
- 2007 D. Piechota. "The Excavation of Soil Blocks from Sylvester Manor." Journal of Northeast Historical Archaeology . v. 36, pp. 83-99.
- 2006 D. Piechota. "Conservator as Archaeologist: An Experiment in Micro-excavation," paper presented at the Society for American Archaeology Annual Meeting. San Juan, Puerto Rico.
- 2004 D. Piechota and C. Giangrande, "The Conservation of Archaeological Finds" in Deep-Water Shipwrecks off Skerki Bank: The 1997 Survey." Journal of Roman Archaeology, Suppl. 58. Portsmouth R.I.
- 2002 Robert D. Ballard, Lawrence E. Stager, Daniel Master, Dana Yoerger, David Mindell, Louis L. Whitcomb, Hanumant Singh, and Dennis Piechota. Iron Age Shipwrecks in Deep Water off Ashkelon, Israel. American Journal of Archaeology . v. 106, no, 2, pp. 151-168.
- 1998 D. Piechota. "Problems in Deep Water Conservation", paper presented at the Society for Historical Archaeology, Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA, January 8.
- 1994 D. Piechota. "Laboratory Conservation", in Deep Water Archaeology, Journal of Roman Archaeology, Supplementary Series 13, by Anna Marguerite McCann and Joann Freed.
- 1993 D. Piechota. "Relative Humidity Control in Cases: Buffered Silica Gel vs. Saturated Salt Solutions", WAAC Newsletter. vol. 15, no. 1.
- 1990 D. Piechota. "The Use of Enzymes in Archaeological Conservation", Symposium organized by Technology and Conservation, MIT, Cambridge.
- 1988 D. Piechota. "Packing Anthropological Collections for Transit", Postprints of Symposium 86: The Care and Preservation of Ethnological Materials. Canadian Conservation Institute, Ottawa, pp. 11-22.
- 1978 D. Piechota. "Storage Containerization: Archaeological Textile Collections", Journal of the American Institute for Conservation. v. 18, no.1, pp.10-18.

*CONTACT*

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