

المرحلة الاولى

النص 3

الجزء 2

TECHNIQUES OF EXCAVATION

The archaeologist must record not only the exact location of objects found and the details of their association with other objects, but also the countless details he has observed while digging, even though no specimens are involved.

For example, a thin layer of windblown sand on the floor of a room, beneath the debris of collapsed walls and roof, provides evidence that the door stood open for some time after it was abandoned, whereas, the presence of ashes and burned roof timbers

directly above the floor, together with everyday tools and utensils, shows that the room burned when it was being occupied and was not abandoned.

The archaeologist knows that excavating a site inevitably destroys it. The process is analogous to the somewhat improbable predicament of entering a library of rare books, for which no other copies exist, and having to read them even though you know the mere turning of the pages will result in their destruction.

Under such circumstances, the conscientious scholar would, as he read, make his notes as accurate and comprehensive as possible, and this is what the archaeologist must do.