

D. Koucheh Green	Assia Green	Mayrouba 2 Green	AKKar Green	Ain Hala Green
D. Koucheh 950	Assia 950	Mayrouba 2 950	AKKar 950	Ain Hala 950
D. Koucheh 1000	Assia 1000	Mayrouba 2 1000	AKKar 1000	Ain Hala 1000
D. Koucheh 1050	Assia 1050	Mayrouba 2 1050	AKKar 1050	Ain Hala 1050
D. Koucheh 1100	Assia 400	Mayrouba 2 1100	AKKar 1100	Ain Hala 1100
D. Koucheh 1150	Assia 1150	Mayrouba 2 1150	AKKar 1150	Ain Hala 1150
D. Koucheh 1250	Assia 1200	Mayrouba 2 1200	AKKar 1200	Ain Hala 1200
Mayrouba 1 Green	T. Fawqa Green	Tarichich Green	Fakhoury Green	Bekfaya Green
Mayrouba 1 950	T. Fawqa 950	Tarichich 950	Fakhoury 950	Bekfaya 950
Mayrouba 1 1000	T. Fawqa 1000	Tarichich 1000	Fakhoury (Barain) 1000	Bekfaya 1000
Mayrouba 1 1050	T. Fawqa 1050	Tarichich 1050	Fakhoury 1050	Bekfaya 1050
Mayrouba 1 1050	T. Fawqa 1050	Tarichich 1100	Fakhoury 1150	Bekfaya 1150
Mayrouba 1 1150	T. Fawqa 1100	Tarichich 1150	Fakhoury 1150	Bekfaya 1150
Mayrouba 1 1200	T. Fawqa 1150	Tarichich 1200	Fakhoury 1200	Bekfaya 1200

طين طبيعي

WILD CLAY

WORKBOOK for Potters & Clay Enthusiasts

INTRODUCTION

This workbook is for beginner and experienced potters alike who wish to learn how to incorporate local clay into their practice. Designed to be taken into the field, this workbook provides a structured guide for harvesting and testing various wild clays for the purpose of studio pottery.

For background and more detailed instructions, refer to *Wild Clay: A Local Guide to Lebanese Clay, Traditional Material Knowledge, and Sustainability in the Ceramic Tradition*, a publication of the Beirut Museum of Art (BeMA).



Scan or click the QR code to download BeMA's *Wild Clay* workbook, and begin your own journey into wild clay testing.



Scan or click the QR code to share your discoveries and data, and contribute to the growing research archive on Lebanon's clay heritage and ceramic traditions.

Researched and written by Haloren Mellendorf

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Initiated and produced by the Beirut Museum of Art

BeMA is dedicated to the preservation, research, and safeguarding of Lebanese and regional cultural heritage. Entrusted with the Lebanese Ministry of Culture's Collection, BeMA advances conservation, restoration, research, and collection care to support the transmission of artistic and traditional knowledge. While its permanent museum building is under construction, BeMA continues its mission through its "Beyond the Walls" initiatives, promoting cultural stewardship, sustainability, documentation, and heritage preservation across Lebanon. The Lebanese Wild Clay research project reflects this commitment through the study and preservation of local clay sources, ceramic traditions, and environmental knowledge.

PROJECT PARTNERS

In collaboration with the International Academy of Ceramics and the American University of Beirut.

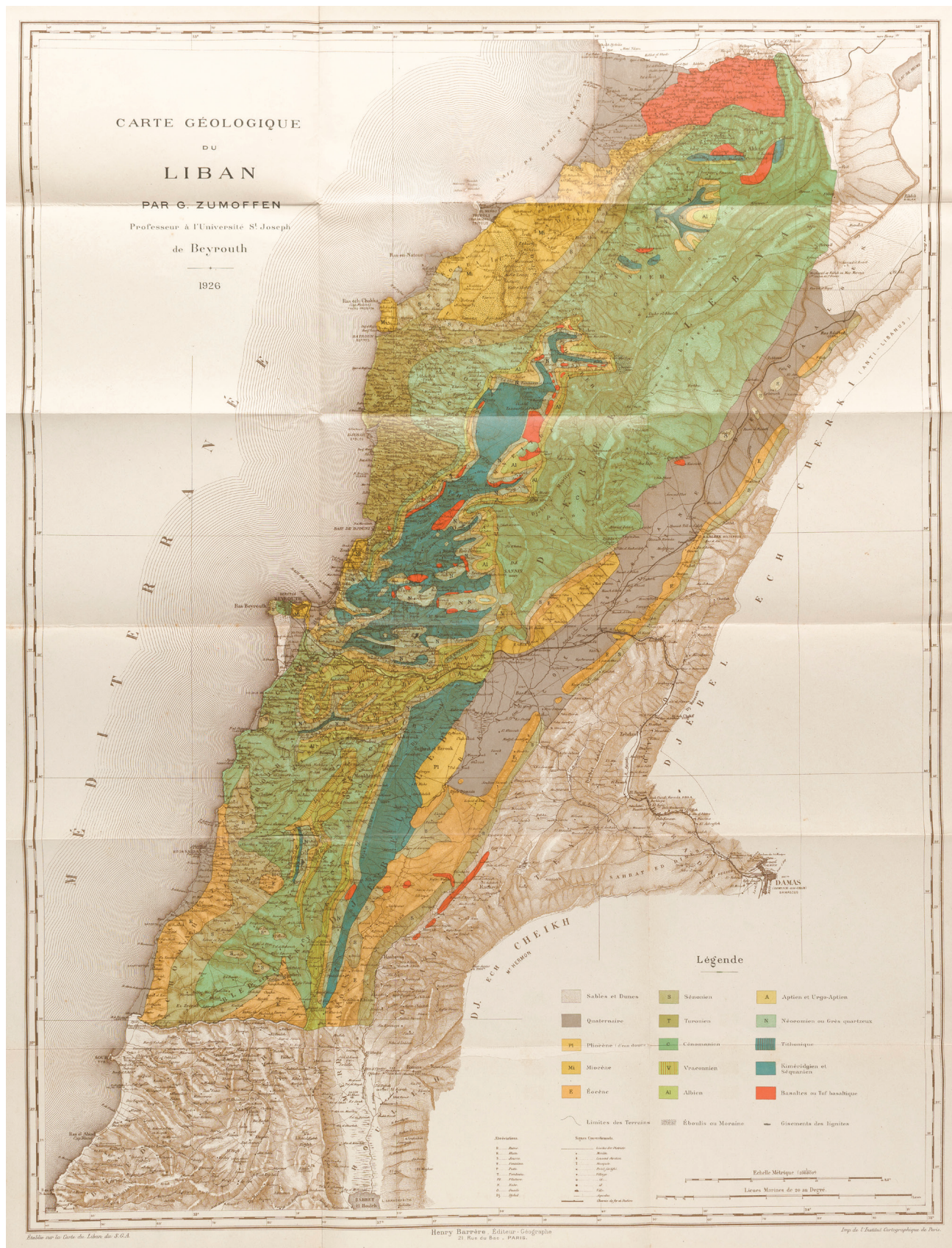
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AMERICAN
UNIVERSITY
OF BEIRUT



ACADÉMIE INTERNATIONALE
DE LA CÉRAMIQUE
INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY
OF CERAMICS



GEOLOGICAL MAP OF LEBANON

G. Zumoffen, published by Henri Barrère Éditeurs, 1926.

BeMA Documentation Collection. Digital reproduction © Beirut Museum of Art (BeMA).

HUNTING FOR WILD CLAY

WHAT YOU'LL NEED



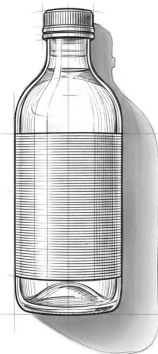
**CLOTHES YOU DON'T MIND
GETTING MUDDY**



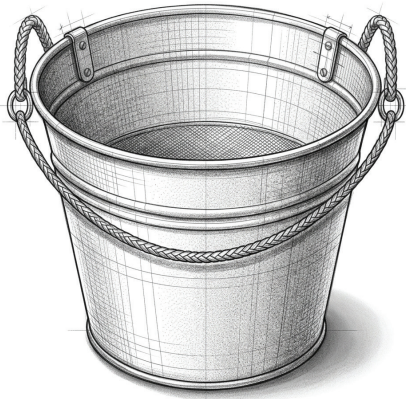
**GOOD HIKING
SHOES**



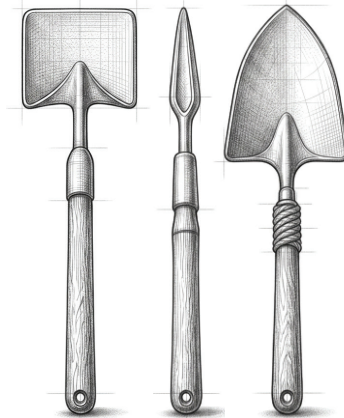
**A LARGE BOTTLE
OF WATER
ESPECIALLY ON
A HOT DAY!**



**A BOTTLE OF
WHITE VINEGAR**



A STURDY BUCKET
WITH A HANDLE



A SMALL HAND SHOVEL,
TROWEL, OR PICKAXE



GARDENING GLOVES
(OPTIONAL)

HOW TO USE THIS WORKBOOK

SITE Sample															
COORDINATES	included for mapping purposes														
Indicates no/minimal cracking, high plasticity	Coil/Ribbon Test ++ +- --	Vinegar Test ++ +- --	Indicates lots of bubbles; high levels of calcium												
Indicates lots of cracking, low plasticity	Field Notes Here you may include notes on how to access the site, trail markers, etc.		Indicates no/few bubbles; low levels of calcium												
STUDIO TESTS		Calculated by:													
Water Absorption: _____ ml (How much water needs to be added to 100g of clay to form a bonded coil)		(Bone Dry Tile value - Wet Tile value)													
Shrinkage		— Bone Dry Tile value — x 100													
	<table border="1"><thead><tr><th></th><th>WET TILE</th><th>BONE DRY TILE</th><th>% CHANGE</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Length</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Weight</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></tbody></table>		WET TILE	BONE DRY TILE	% CHANGE	Length				Weight					
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Length															
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Levigation															
		Mix a dry, powdered clay sample with water and transfer to a clear glass or plastic test tube. Swirl well and set aside, vertically upright. Over the next few minutes, pay attention to which particles settle to the bottom of the test tube first and which remain suspended in the water.													



Potter's Tip

Fire each test tile with a small stoneware boat underneath, to prevent damage to your kiln shelf should the wild clay happen to melt.

SITE _____

COORDINATES _____

Coil/Ribbon Test			Vinegar Test		
++	+-	--	++	+-	--

Field Notes _____

STUDIO TESTS

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Levigation _____

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Choose firing temperatures that make sense for you & your practice

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