Annual Report of the Faculty Board of Archaeology and Anthropology on the Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, 1950—51

26 November 1951

The Faculty Board of Archaeology and Anthropology beg leave to present to the University their Annual Report on the Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology for the year 1 October 1950 to 30 September 1951.

1. The Board are glad to thank the Honorary Keepers and other voluntary helpers for their services. Miss Liversidge has continued her work on the Roman collections, both British and Continental, and she rearranged much of the exhibit in time for the combined conference of the Classical Societies in August. Mr and Mrs G. K. Roth remained in England until early in the summer, and gave help from time to time with the Fijian collections.

2. Among the accessions special mention may be made of the following:

- Miss Caton-Thompson’s important archaeological collection from the Hadramaut, Arabia.
- A fine collection of Nal culture pottery, from Baluchistan, given by Mrs Benn.
- The Iron Age, Roman and other material found at Abington Piggotts in the last century, which was bought from Mr M. G. de Courcy Ireland with money from the Cambridge Antiquarian Society’s annual grant to the Museum.
- A notable Christian Saxon pendant of crystal and amethyst with gold and garnet mounts from Streatham, given by Mr Louis Clarke.
- A cast, the first to be made, of one of the horse’s heads from the frieze at La Roche du Sorcier at Angles-sur-l’Anglin, Vienne, France, given by Professor D. A. E. Garrod and Mademoiselle S. de Saint-Mathrin.

3. The African Hall has been opened to the public. The arrangement is nearly complete; one case has still to be built and few exhibits lack labels.

4. In the Egyptian and Middle East Hall a number of show-cases were built by S. C. Lilley and a series of pre-dynastic Egyptian pottery was provisionally arranged in them.

At the end of the period several cases became available from the Botany School and were being rebuilt in this hall by S. C. Lilley. It should be possible to complete this work within a few months.

5. Among other improvements were the completion of the display in the Eskimo cases, the rearrangement of part of the currency collection, and the complete reconstruction of the Sepik River, New Guinea, exhibit.

6. A series of faults in the electric wiring called attention to its obsolete nature. The Buildings Syndicate agreed that it was essential to the safety of the building that it be rewired. Much of this work was done in the Long Vacation, but delay in the delivery of fittings will prevent its completion for several weeks. A number of lighting improvements have been introduced without extra cost.

7. In the Michaelmas and Lent Terms the Curator undertook the greater part of the teaching of material culture, comprising a course of lectures and demonstrations in the Museum. In the Easter Term he gave an expanded short course on the Origins of Civilization in the Americas. The Assistant Curator gave demonstrations on European archaeological material.

8. The Curator went to Peru in August to take part in the First International Congress of Peruvianists, at the invitation of the Organizing Committee of the Congress. He took advantage of the opportunity to visit a number of important sites where he collected sherds and other material which is to be found in few museums outside Peru, and spent three days at the famous museum at the Hacienda Chiclin near Trujillo where he discussed problems of Peruvian archaeology with Sr. Rafael Larco Hoyle, and studied the collections which contain abundant material not represented elsewhere. He subsequently paid a short visit to Bogota in Colombia as the guest of the Ministry of Education, and visited the National Museum and the Ethnological and Archaeological Institute.

9. Among the many visitors who came to the Museum were Professor I. A. Richmond of Durham, Professor Sankalia, Dr I. Karvé and Mr Lai of Poona, Dr Loppé of the La Rochelle Museum, Dr Cappieri of Rome, and Mr Jan Petersen, Director of the Stavanger Museum.

10. By arrangement with the British Council Mr Chen Boon Kong, an assistant in the Sarawak Museum, spent four months in the Museum studying the care and treatment of specimens and examining the Borneo collections.

11. During the year material from the Museum was lent to exhibitions as follows:

- (a) archaeological objects from Norfolk and Suffolk to the Norwich Castle Museum for a Festival of Britain Exhibition in June;
- (b) duplicate archaeological specimens to the People of Britain Section of the South Bank Festival Exhibition in London;
- (c) ethnological material to the exhibition of Colonial Art at the Imperial Institute.

12. Stone Age Collections. Mr M. C. Burkitt, the Honorary Keeper, reports that during the year a number of large collections have been registered. They include the Noone collections from the Les Eyzies district and the Desmond Clark collection from Somaliland. A number of specimens of archaeological rather than geological
interest have been received from the Sedgwick Museum, and it is proposed to reciprocate in the near future. Mrs E. M. Ifford has kindly presented her palaeolithic finds from certain gravel pits near Gloucester. Other small collections on sites not previously represented in the Museum have also been presented and will be registered in due course. The local collections have been entirely rearranged and expanded.

14. Monumental Brass Rubbings. Mr G. A. E. Ruck, the Honorary Keeper, reports that he made a further visit to Derbyshire and Staffordshire during the summer, and made extensive additions to the collection.

He has made considerable progress in sorting the Macklin collection of rubbings and dabbings, and has incorporated itable examples from it in the main collection.

15. Duckworth Laboratory. Dr J. C. Trevor reports that work by research students and others on the osteological collections (now augmented by the arrival, on extended loan, of British Neolithic skulls from Cheltenham College and from the Royal College of Surgeons) has continued in the laboratory throughout the year. The laboratory’s instrumental facilities have been increased by the acquisition of a “trichocyclophore,” designed by Professor Sergio Sergi of Rome to simplify the measurement of hair, and by the purchase of a modern microscope, long needed for a variety of purposes. Ad hoc courses of instruction in anthropometry have been provided for an anatomist on the staff of another British University and for a medical officer from West Africa. Efficient work is still gravely handicapped by a serious lack of space for specimens and workers alike.

16. Haddon Library. Mrs Rishbeth, the Librarian, reports that there has been a steady rate of increase by gifts and by changes. The accommodation problem has become so acute that temporary measures have been adopted which have eased the strain for the time being, but are nevertheless to be deplored. These consist of lodging certain groups of books in other rooms, Professor Fortes housing all the language books except the general and British section, whilst Professor Glanville has Egyptian reports on excavations and the Irish section is in Professor Dickins’ room. In addition, the Far Eastern books are already established in the South lecture room, which is so much in use that the books are difficult of access, and Mr Burkitt accommodates a large section of specialized books on religion. It is obvious that such a dispersion of the contents of a many is most inconvenient and highly unsatisfactory, and that it is impossible for the Librarian to exercise any supervision over the books so scattered. The removal of the above books entailed a considerable rearrangement of the remainder which the Librarian undertook during the Long Vacation.

The Board are much indebted to:

Mrs Anna-Marie Beckman.
Mr M. C. Burkitt.
Dr G. H. S. Bushnell.
The Rev. J. Cook.
Dr G. E. Daniel.
Professor Sigurd Eriksen.
Professor M. Fortes.
Mr E. H. A. Haddon.
Mr M. J. C. Hodgart.
Mr G. J. Jones.
Professor R. Kherumanian.
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Amsterdam, The Royal Tropical Institute.
Cambridge, The School of Agriculture.
Cambridge, The Secretary, Colonial Service Course.

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G. J. Jones.
P. Hunter Blair.
Rachel Bromwich.

Cambridge, The University Treasurer.
C.I.B.A.
The Goldsmith’s Company.
Hawaii, Bernice P. Bishop Museum, Honolulu.
Irish Government: Committee for Cultural Relations, Department of External Affairs.
The London County Council.
Madrid, El Inspector General de Museos Arqueológicos.
Mexico, (Instituto) Nacional Indigenista.
Moscow, Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R.
New Zealand, Canterbury Museum, Christchurch.
Oslo, Universitets Oldsaksamling.
Oxford and District Folklore Society.
Rotterdam, Museum voor Land- en Volkenkunde.
Royal Anthropological Institute.
Seven Pillars of Wisdom, The Trustees of.
Singapore Art Society.
Tchecoslovak, Institut d’Archaeologie de l’Etat.
Uruguay, Institute de Historia.
Valencia, Service de Investigacion Prehistorica.
Washington, Carnegie Institute of.
Washington University.
Appendix

List of Accessions to the Museum, 1950—51

Hutton, Professor J. H.: Wooden dish, drum, drinking horn and monkey skull, Naga, Assam (50. 567—679); ten paintings of Manipuri tribesmen (51. 764), brass bed-heads, Cochin, Malabar, India (51. 773—774).

Jones, Mr G. I.: Medicine horn and pottery figure of cock, Basutoland, Africa (50. 680; 51. 362).

Kissling, Dr W.: Handmade tea-cup, Isle of Lewis, Hebrides (50. 694).

Lambeth, Mr R. C.: Kisii, Kenya, stone bowl found in the Fens (50. 675).

La Societe Jersiaise: Nine base silver Armorician coins from La Merguandiere, St B re ladies Bay, Jersey (51. 256).

Leicester Museum and Art Gallery: Bronzed iron barrel lock, Romano-British from River Cam (51. 526).

Lindgren, Dr E. J.: Woman’s outer belt, Karasukand Lapp, Sweden (50. 673).

Loppe, Dr E.: Modelled redware head, Martinique, West Indies (51. 651).

Macalister, Miss: Various ethnological objects from Palestine, Malaya, Sarawak, New Guinea, North America, and Egypt, and an iron sword, probably Dark Ages, Britain (51. 260—274 and 51. 524—525).

Marshall, Mr A.: Wooden beaker, Peru (50. 666); flint fabricator, Walton-on-the-Naze, Essex (51. 529).

Milnes-Coates, R. E. J. C.: Perforated quartzite mace-head, Mundford near Brandon, Norfolk (51. 361).

Mr Allan, Miss: Middle and Late Palaeolithic collection from classic sites in France and a collection consisting mainly of Upper Palaeolithic flints from French caves, with a few Neolithic implements from English sites (51. 121—25).

Mr Young, Mrs: Miniature pottery, baskets, and gourds, BogotA, Colombia (50. 655—657). Purchased: Polychrome jar, Ucayali River, South America (51. 360); Middle Kingdom bronze dagger, Egypt (51. 716).

Salaman, Dr R. N.: Wooden mask, Ivory Coast, Africa (50. 659).

Sedgwick Museum: Large collection of stone implements ranging from Palaeolithic to Bronze Age from European sites; together with African, Indian, American, New Zealand, and Australian material (51. 381—514 and 51. 528).

Shaw, Mr C. T.: Iron spearhead and pot-sherd, Anglo-Saxon, Little Wilbraham, Cambs. (51. 520).

Sheldrick, Mr E. J.: Coin of Nero, Roman, from Amidia, Egypt (51. 257).

Sieveking, Mr Q. de G.: Neolithic and Late Bronze Age sherds, flints, bone needle, and spindle whorl, Fort Harrouard, France (51. 517—519).

Silk, Miss M.: Metal and reed tobacco pipe, Korea (50. 674).

Smith, Mr R. G.: Socketed bronze spear head, late Bronze Age, Buckden, Hunts. (50. 671).

Stroyn, Mr A. L. H.: Neolithic flint implements, Barton Mills, Suffolk (51. 765).

Theford Borough Corporation: Series of potsherds from the Late Saxon town of Thetford, Norfolk (51. 707—715).

Tipper, Mrs 0. F.: Charm case and silver mounted wooden container, Tibet; pipe and wooden spoons, India (51. 645—648).

Wellcome Historical Medical Museum: Feake case, Abyssinia; grass hats, Basutoland; water bottle, Nigeria; ivory horn, Congo; gold weights, Ashanti, basket and pottery objects, Africa, provenance uncertain (50. 681—693), antiquities from Peru, harpoon heads, Tierrad Fuego; wooden dishes, skin rope, stone pipe, North America; and various African ethnographical material (51. 363—379).

Woodthorpe, Mrs M. V.: Wooden chest, copper and brass trumpets, spouted jugs and brazier, Tibet (51. 751—755).

Wordie, Mr J. M.: Barbed bone spearhead, Tierra del Fuego, Chile (51. 523).