

Annual Report of the Faculty Board of Archaeology and Anthropology on the Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, 1954-55

21 November 1955

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 1954 to 30 September 1955.

1. The Honorary Keepers have given valuable help and support, and the Board are very grateful to them. They also wish to express their gratitude to Mrs Rishbeth, Mr James Dyer, and Miss D. Kahn for their help with the collections.

2. Among the accessions, the more important are as follows:

Some Pre-Pottery Neolithic stone and clay objects and some Bronze Age tomb groups from Jericho, given by the British School of Archaeology in Jerusalem in recognition of a grant from the Crowther-Beynon Fund.

An exceptionally fine stone figurine of an alpaca from Peru, given by Mr Louis Clarke.

A beautiful silver penannular brooch of Viking Age from Ireland and two New Zealand tikis, given by Mr A. J. Hugh Smith.

3. Three British gold coins were transferred to the Fitzwilliam Museum. Electrotypes are to be supplied for use in the Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology.

4. Grants from the Crowther-Beynon Fund were made towards Dr M^cBumey's excavation in Cyrenaica, the Curator's work in Tobago, Professor Clark's excavation at Wandlebury, and Dr Kenyon's excavation at Jericho.

5. *Exhibits.* In addition to the work mentioned in paragraph 11 in the report of the Honorary Keeper of the Stone Age Collections, improvements in the Keyser Hall include the rearrangement of the table cases containing European Neolithic and Copper Age material and the local Iron Age material, and the preparation of exhibits of Neolithic and Bronze Age series from Malta and Thessaly in a screen case.

In the Clarke Hall, the table case containing Viking and Late Saxon material was rearranged, and additions and alterations were made to the Medieval pottery series.

Further improvements were made in the Egyptian and Near Eastern Hall.

A fine canoe from Victoria Nyanza, part of the Roscoe Collection, came to the Museum in sections many years ago but had to be kept in store. During the year it has been assembled and placed above the cases along the east side of the Babington Hall; this was a task of considerable difficulty which was ably carried out under the direction of Mr S.C. Lilley. In the same hall an exhibit of ethnological material from the Gold Coast was arranged.

The Japanese section of the exhibition of Primitive Currency was rearranged and relabelled.

With great ingenuity and skill, Mr S.C. Lilley designed and made a case which allows the Peruvian textiles to be seen to advantage when required, and protects them from the light at other times.

The Maudslay Hall was redecorated, for the first time, it is believed, since it was built. This involved considerable disturbance, but it has greatly improved the appearance of the hall and its contents, particularly that of the ceremonial tablets and shields from New Guinea.

6. Between 3 March and 27 April the Curator carried out an archaeological reconnaissance of Tobago, British West Indies, and examined museum material and visited some archaeological sites in Trinidad, with the aid of a grant from the Crowther-Beynon Fund and generous help from Mr Louis Clarke. The material obtained is still being studied.

7. The Curator was invited to become a member of a Committee set up by the British Academy in conjunction with the Colonial Office to advise the latter on matters relating to antiquities and archives in our Colonial Territories. As a result of his experience in the West Indies he has submitted to the Committee memoranda on the situation in Trinidad and Tobago, and in Jamaica.

8. The Curator lectured to Section H of the British Association on the Disposal of the Dead in Ancient Peru, and to the Oxford University Archaeological Society on Mexican archaeology.

9. In addition to the usual programme of teaching undertaken by the staff. Dr Furness gave a course on the Central European and Scandinavian Bronze and Iron Ages, in replacement of a course normally given by Mr de Navarro, who was on sabbatical leave.

10. The Prehistoric Society visited Cambridge from 15 to 18 September, and the Museum was their headquarters. Visitors from overseas during the year included Dr Gilbert Archey from the Auckland Museum in New Zealand, Dr Marius Barbeau from the National Museum of Canada, Dr Desmond Clark of the Rhodes-Livingstone Museum, Northern Rhodesia, Mr Frederick Johnson of the R.S. Peabody Foundation, Andover, Massachusetts, Mr and Mrs G.K. Roth from Fiji, Mr J. Eric S. Thompson of the Carnegie Institution, and Dr Paul Wingert of Columbia University.

11. *Stone Age Collections.* Mr M.C. Burkitt, the Honorary Keeper, reports that fresh collections from North Africa have been given to the Museum by Dr M^cBurney, the excavator, and that these flint industries have been put on exhibition. Dr Caton-Thompson has given an interesting series of stone tools from South Arabia. The exhibition of these accessions has involved a good deal of rearrangement.

The Mesolithic and later industries from Peacock's Farm have been properly displayed.

An exhibit of British Neolithic pottery and stone implements, in which the material recently excavated at Hurst Fen, near Mildenhall, occupies a prominent place, was arranged under the direction of Mr David Wilson.

12. *Roman Collections.* Miss J.Liversidge, the Honorary Keeper, reports that pottery from the burials at Arbury Road and tools from the Worlington hoard of ironwork are now on exhibition.

Fragments of wall paintings from the Ministry of Works excavations of Roman Villas at High Wycombe and Great Weldon have been received for study and treatment.

13. *Monumental Brass Rubbings.* Mr G. A. E.Ruck, the Honorary Keeper, reports that a large collection of rubbings of excellent quality, which will be of great value for the type collection, have been given by Mr A. B. Connor.

A number of brasses and fragments of brasses from the Thornhill Collection were bought by the Museum, including an interesting seventeenth-century palimpsest bearing an inscription with heraldry and emblems on the obverse and a small sixteenth-century Flemish figure of a man in armour on the reverse.

14. *American Collections.* Mr L.C.G. Clarke, the Honorary Keeper, reports that an interesting collection of pottery figurines and sherds from near Santarem in Brazil has been given by Mr P. S. Ashton of St John's College. The Museum is lucky to obtain a sample of this material, which is difficult to get and not commonly represented in museums outside Brazil.

He draws attention to the great improvement in the exhibition of the ancient Peruvian textiles as the result of the making of the new cases mentioned in paragraph 5 above.

15. *Duckworth Laboratory (Osteological Collections).* Dr J.C. Trevor, the Director, reports that a second fragmentary Neandertal mandible, found by Dr M^cBurney in the Haua Fteah cave near Derna in Cyrenaica during the summer, is being studied in the Laboratory, as are a series of Neolithic remains from Malaya. The Director spent the Long Vacation in Sardinia and Crete, working on Neolithic, Aeneolithic, and Nuragic crania and long bones in the Anthropological Institute of the University of Cagliari, assisted by his wife, and on Middle Minoan skeletons at Knossos and in the Archaeological Museum at Iraklion, assisted by Mr B.G.Campbell of St John's College and Mrs Campbell. Reports have been made on *inter alia* Neolithic and Bronze Age material from the Mildenhall area by Mr P.A.Longton, the Romano-British remains from Arbury Road, Cambridge, by Dr J.C.Trevor, and the Anglo-Saxon skeletons from Melbourn by Miss Frances Armstrong of Girton College. The Arbury Road and Melbourn material will be published in the forthcoming issue of the *Proceedings of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society*. A survey of the problem of the assignment of sex to fossil hominids by Mr S. Genoves of Corpus Christi College, arising out of his work in the Laboratory, has been published in the *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*, and the long-delayed monograph on *The Ancient Inhabitants of Jebel Moya* by R.K.Mukherjee, C.R.Rao, and J.C.Trevor appeared as one of the Museum's Occasional Publications in January. Since the Lent Term Dr P.V.Tobias, Senior Lecturer in

Anatomy, University of the Witwatersrand, and Nuffield Dominions Travelling Fellow in the Natural Sciences, has been engaged in various research projects while studying biometric methods used by the Laboratory. His wide experience of problems relating to the human palaeontology and physical anthropology of Africa has been placed freely at the disposal of other workers and grateful acknowledgement is made of this fact.

16. *Publications.* Publications arising out of work on the Museum collections include the following:

(a) *Ancient American Pottery*, by G.H.S. Bushnell and A. Digby. Faber and Faber, 1955. (A large number of the illustrations are of objects in the Museum.)

(b) *The Prehistoric Cultures of the Horn of Africa*. Occ. Publ. Camb. Univ. Mus. Archaeol. Ethnol. no. 2. Cambridge University Press (1954). J. Desmond Clark.

(c) *Excavations at Star Carr*, by Professor J.G.D. Clark. Cambridge University Press (1954).

(d) 'The problem of the sex of certain fossil hominids, with special reference to the Neandertal skeletons from Spy.' *J. R. Anthropol. Inst.* 84 (1954). Santiago Genoves.

(e) *Prehistory and Pleistocene Geology in Cyrenaican Libya*. Occ. Publ. Camb. Univ. Mus. Archaeol. Ethnol. no. 4. Cambridge University Press (1955). C.B. M. M^cBurney and R.W. Hey.

(f) *The Ancient Inhabitants of Jebel Moya* (Sudan). Occ. Publ. Camb. Univ. Mus. Archaeol. Ethnol. no. 3. Cambridge University Press (1955). Ramkrishna Mukherjee, C. Radhakrishna Rao, and J.C. Trevor.

(g) *Furniture in Roman Britain*, by Joan Liversidge. Tiranti, London, 1955.

17. *Haddon Library.* Miss Thatcher, the Librarian, reports that the Library Committee met once during the year, at which meeting the Librarian's request for leave of absence from October 1955 to June 1956, in order to attend the School of Librarianship at University College, London, was granted. Her place will be temporarily filled by Miss M. P.G. Tolfree (B.A. Oxon).

During the year 64 books and 125 pamphlets were acquired by gift, the large number of the latter being due to the valuable accession of 84 duplicates given by the University Library from the late Sir Ellis Minns's bequest. 147 books were bought, and 170 parts of periodicals received. The Library was used by 75 Tripos students and 19 Research Students, besides members of the Faculty, Cambridge Antiquarian Society members, and visitors.

During the calendar year 1954, 3436 volumes were borrowed.

The Board are indebted to:

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APPENDIX

LIST OF ACCESSIONS TO THE MUSEUM, 1954-55

- Adshead, Mr H.E.*: Ethnological material, Macedonia (54. 343-345).
Arber, Miss M.: Throwing stick, Australia (55. 39).
Ashton, Mr P. S.: Stone implements, potsherds and pottery figurines, Brazil (55. 40-60).
Attle, Mr J.: Roman coin, Chesterton, Cambridge (55. 154).
Beasley, Mrs I.M.: Fish hooks, Solomon Islands (54. 315-323).
Bidder, Dr A.M.: Musical instruments and *papier mache* dolls, Italy (54. 363, 364).
Bidder, Colonel H. F.: Anglo-Saxon grave-groups, Mitcham, Surrey (54. 370-415).
Bouquet, Rev. Dr A. C.: Com dolly, Little Eversden, Cambs. (54. 324); rice paste puppets, Calcutta (55. 141).
British School of Archaeology in Jerusalem: Pre-Pottery Neolithic stone and clay material and Bronze Age tomb groups, Jericho (55. 164-195).
Burchell, Mr J. P. T.: Collection of mesolithic flint cores and flakes, Addington, Kent (55. 199, 200).
Burkitt, Mr M.C.: Bronze Age potsherds, obsidian implements and bronze horse figurine, Greece (55. 65-77); Bronze Age potsherds, Minorca (55. 78, 79); neolithic potsherd, Malta (55. 80).
Bushnell, Dr G.H.S.: Two pottery figures, Oaxaca, Mexico (55. 138).
Calkin, Mr J.B.: Flint lathe tools, Kimmeridge, Dorset (55. 162).
Carter, Mr D.J.: Flint axe, Great Wilbraham, Cambs. (55. 135).
Caton-Thompson, Dr G.: Palaeolithic chert implements, Hadhramaut (55. 99-127).
Clark, Professor J.G.D.: Mesolithic flint implements and Bronze Age jet button, Shippea Hill, Cambs. (55. 142, 147-153).
Clarke, Mr L.C.G.: Stone alpaca, Peru (55. 61).
Evans, Mr J.D.: Series of neolithic and Bronze Age potsherds, Malta (55. 143-146).
Forbes, Dr C. L.: Terra sigillata, Netherby, Cumberland, and Whitley Castle, Northumberland (55. 197, 198).
Fortes, Professor M.: Cloth cap, Gold Coast (55. 137).
Frend, Dr W.H.C.: Terra sigillata and Romano-British sherds, Arbury Road, Cambridge (55. 62).
Goss, Miss M.L.: Hair-combs, dice-box and palm-leaf documents, Upper Burma (55. 94-96).
Gothenburg Ethnographical Museum {exchange}: Lance, pipe and neck ornament, Brazil (55. 159-161).
Grantham, Mr S.: Glazed earthenware plaques, Burma (55. 97, 98).
Harrison, Mr T.: Glass beads, Sarawak (55. 64).
Hawes, Mr A. W.H.: Flint axe, Wicken, Cambs. (55. 136).
Howell, Mr P.P.: Two suits of chain mail, Sudan (55. 63).
Kaulbach, Mr R.: Stone implements, stone and jade pendants, copper axe blade. Upper Burma (55. 1-38).
McMichael, Mr N.H.: Iron-tipped arrows, Sioux, Canada (55. 139).
Marshall, Executors of the late Dr F.H.A.: Steelyard, Tibet (54. 346).
Newall, Mr R.S.: Shield, spear-heads and spear-thrower, Australia (55. 155); dance paddles, Polynesia (55. 156); club, Melanesia (55. 157).
Picken, Dr L.R.: Musical instrument and pair of sandals, China (54. 347, 362).
Post, Mr K. W.J.: Core of Pressigny flint, France (55. 81); palaeolithic and neolithic flints from various sites in Kent (55. 82-91).
Pratt, Dr C.O.G.: Quiver of poisoned arrows, Nigeria (55. 158).
Purchased: Bronze rapier and knife-blade, Isleham, Cambs. (54. 300); seven monumental brasses, fifteenth to early seventeenth centuries, England, Thornhill Collection (54. 301-307); medieval red ware jug, St John's College, Cambridge (55. 92).
Reich, Mr J.: Medieval bone disc with intaglio design, Ely, Cambs. (55. 163).
Reynolds, Mr T.W.: Fragment of Romano-British quern, Waterbeach, Cambs. (55. 93).
Roth, Mr G.K.: Ethnological material, Fiji (54. 335-342).
Sedgwick Museum (transfers): Stone weapons and implements, copper ornaments, beads, Washington, N. America (54. 325-334); stone implement, Tievebulliagh, Antrim (55. 196).
Sheppard, Dr G.: Stone celts and figurine, pottery heads and spindle-whorls, Ecuador (54. 308-314).
Smith, Mr A.J. Hugh: Silver penannular brooch, Ballynolan, Ireland (55. 128); jade tikis, New Zealand (55. 140).
Summers, Mr H.: Romano-British bronze figurine head, iron implements and horse-harness, potsherds and quern fragments, Worlington, Suffolk (50. 130-134).
Tebbutt, Mr C.F.: Part of Roman leather sandal, Little Paxton, Hunts. (54. 365); Belgic and Roman pottery vessels and potsherds, Wyboston, Hunts. (54. 366-369); glazed medieval potsherd with modelled face, Eynesbury Bridge, Hunts. (54. 420).
Tremearne, Mrs A.J.N.: Ethnological material, Nigeria (54. 348-361).
Waller, Mr E.M.: Fragments of Romano-British pewter plates, Manea, Cambs. (55. 129).
Wellcome Historical Medical Museum: Hide shield, Somaliland (54. 416); basketry shield, Belgian Congo (55. 417); wooden shields, Borneo and New Britain (55. 418, 419).