

For General Board on 31 May 1972 (UDAR/9)

Annual Report on the Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, 1970-71

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 1970 to 30 September 1971.

Staff

Mr P. W. GATHERCOLE, Curator, Miss M. D. CRA'STER, Mr M. D. MCLEOD, Assistant Curators.

Although the year began in an atmosphere of severe economy caused by the financial situation of the University, it was possible to take certain steps towards improving the long-term maintenance, display, and use of the collections. These activities were essentially a holding operation, however, while discussions continued concerning the future site, character, and function of the Museum. As a first step, outline approval was obtained for the redesign and redecoration of the Workshop and the Entrance area. Plans for the Workshop subsequently received final approval.

The Curator attended the 23rd Orientalists' Congress and a UNESCO Seminar on South Pacific cultures in Canberra in January, reading papers at both meetings. He also conducted seminars at the Universities of Otago and Hawaii, and visited museums in Suva, Sydney, Auckland, Dunedin, and Honolulu. During the summer, he visited fifteen museums and art galleries in the Eastern United States, in order to examine developments relevant to the future plans of this museum. He continued to lecture and supervise research students at Oxford for most of the year. In December he gave papers at the Conference on Settlement Pattern and Urbanization, held at the Institute of Archaeology, London, and at the Material Culture Seminar, University College, London. He lectured to an Adult Education course in Cambridge in February, and to the Art Panel of the Royal Anthropological Institute in March. He was a member of the Council of the Royal Anthropological Institute and of the Council of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society. He opened the Longsands Comprehensive School Museum, St Neots, in November, thus continuing a fruitful association between the two institutions. He was a member of the M 11 (Central Section) Committee, concerned with archaeological work associated with this motorway development, and was appointed convenor of the Northern Section Committee.

Miss Cra'ster continued to serve on the South East Area Museums Council and on the Committee of the South Midlands Museums Federation. She was a member of the main M 11 Committee, and she examined threatened sites in the area. She attended the Conference on Iron Age Hill Forts at the University of Southampton in March, and the Conference of the Prehistoric Society in the Isle of Man in April.

Mr McLeod read a paper to the Art Panel of the Royal Anthropological Institute in November. He spent two weeks studying private and public collections of Asante goldweights in the United States in April, as a guest of the Heron Foundation. He subsequently attended the first Conference of North American Archaeologists working in Africa at the University of Illinois, where he took a graduate class on Social Change in West Africa. He worked on a check list of Ghanaian art objects in East Anglian collections, part of a scheme for a complete U.K. check list compiled by Mr K. Miles of the Ghana National Museums and Monuments Board. He was a convenor of the Faculty Seminar on 'Art and Material Culture'.

The members of the curatorial staff gave their normal courses of lectures and demonstrations, to Tripos candidates.

The Assistant Staff worked under considerable difficulty during the year because, following the resignation of Mr A. Brady from the Workshop in December, permission to fill the vacancy was delayed until August. The Museum Committee is grateful to the Assistant Staff for its ready co-operation during this period. Mr David Stringer, formerly of Cadbury-Schweppes Limited, was appointed to the vacancy in the Workshop in September.

Photography

The volume of work in the Studio continued to be very high. Mr L. P. Morley, the photographer, took 1,529 photographs, and made 247 coloured and 503 black-and-white slides.

Mr Miles Burkitt

The death of Mr Miles Burkitt, on 22 August, at the age of 80, deprived the Museum Committee of a member who had been almost continuously connected with it in various capacities since 1922. Mr Burkitt, formerly University Lecturer in Prehistoric Archaeology, was for many years Honorary Keeper of the Stone Age collections, which he augmented by numerous valuable donations. The Committee will miss his advice and judgment on many matters, not least because it was based on experience stretching back to the time when the collections were rehoused and reorganized in the present building after the First World War.

Displays

The group of model canoes in the Entrance area was removed in favour of the first of a series of temporary displays, 'The Shadow Theatre of South East Asia'. This was arranged under the direction of Mrs J. Stargardt, the first Ivor Evans Fellow. The Romano-British exhibits were extensively rearranged by Miss J. Liversidge, Honorary Keeper, who also completed the display of the Cotton collection of inscriptions. These displays were visited in July by many members attending the Conference for Teachers of the Classics and the Triennial Joint Meeting of the Greek and Roman Societies. Mr McLeod undertook the research and case designs required for a commemorative exhibition on the work of N. W. Thomas, a pioneer Government Anthropologist in Nigeria. A selection of photographs of Dr J.M. Coles' excavations of Somerset trackways was put on display in the Clarke Hall.

Collections

Shortage of storage space reached such proportions that the housing of any newly acquired large collection would have been a major embarrassment. Stop-gap measures taken during the year included the construction of temporary box screens on top of the cases in the Keyser Hall to house spare furniture and folk-life material, and the reorganization of certain Stone Age and Melanesian stores. Mr McLeod began the long process of checking and rehousing the African collections. The Curator carried out a preliminary count of the Oceanic collections, as part of his work for a UNESCO study of holdings in European museums from this area. He and Mr McLeod also continued checking the provenance of objects obtained on Captain Cook's voyages in the Pacific between 1769 and 1779 which previously lacked specific attribution. Mrs Jane Roth, Honorary Keeper of Fijian Collections, began editing the manuscript diary of Baron Anatole von Hügel (Curator, 1883-1921), relating to his years in Fiji (1875-77), for eventual publication.

There was increasing use of collections by students towards the end of the academic year, which may have been stimulated by the decision to have student members on the Museum Committee.

Visitors

Among those who examined collections were: H.E. the Fijian High Commissioner; Mr C. Allan (Resident Commissioner, New Hebrides); Dr G. Atkinson (School of Oriental and African Studies, London); Dr E.H. Bigalke (East London Museum, S.A.); Mr P. Briggs (Queens University, Belfast); Mr D. Calvocoressi (University of Ghana); Mr G. Connah (Nigerian Antiquities Service); Mr G. Corbin (Lehman College, U.S.A.); Dr B. Danielssohn (National Ethnographical Museum, Stockholm); Dr C.B. Donnan (University of California, Los Angeles); Mr J. Dunne (London); Dr C. Flight (Birmingham); Mr P. Fosse (Lagos); Mr D. Gjertsen (University of Ghana); Mr P. Goldman (London); Professor Haspel (Allard Pierson Museum, Amsterdam); Dr U.E. Hagber (State Historical Museum, Stockholm); Dr D. Hill (Walkers Art Gallery, Baltimore); Mr R. Jolly (Auckland, N.Z.); Professor E.M. Jope (Queens University, Belfast); Dr S. Koslowski (University of Warsaw); Mr K. Miles (Ghana National Museum); Miss K. O'Connor (Oxford); Mrs R. Phillips (School of Oriental and African Studies, London); Mr L. Pole (Ghana National Museum); Professor M. Posnansky (University of Ghana); Dr H. Sassoon (British School in East Africa, Nairobi); Dr Tapah (India); Dr J.M. Vastokas (Trent University, Canada); Mrs V. Vowles (Horniman Museum, London); Dr K.R. Wernhart (University of Vienna); Professor I. Wilkes and Professor F. Willett (North Western University, Chicago); Mr K. Woodward (New Hebrides).

Loans

The Museum was pleased to assist the BBC in its new series of *Animat, Vegetable, Mineral* by lending a number of objects from the archaeological collections to attempt to mislead the experts. Eight Plains' Indian specimens were lent to the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, for a special exhibition of American Indian Art, and ten specimens from the N.W. Amazon area were sent to 'Survival' (Primitive Peoples' Fund) for a display at the University of Lancaster. A Saxon crystal pendant from Stretham, Cambs., and some exhibition cases were lent to the Dean and Chapter of Ely Cathedral for an exhibition in the Lady Chapel. Beads from Africa and Glozel (Beck Collection) were sent to the Radiation Laboratory, University of California (Berkeley), for X-ray fluorescence analysis as part of an extensive research programme conducted by Miss Claire Davison. Negotiations were begun concerning a loan of Polynesian material to the Musee de l'Homme, Paris, for a major exhibition there in 1972.

Attendances

9,316 people visited the Museum during opening hours. There were visits by 91 organized parties, the majority from schools in the local area.

Crowther-Beynon Fund

Grants totalling £3,500 were made to the following: the Museum, for purchases; Dr B. Allchin, for Upper Palaeolithic explorations and excavations in W. India; Professor J.G.D.Clark (recurrent grant for excavations in Britain); Dr J.M.Coles, for Neolithic excavations in Somerset; Mr R.Dennell, for Neolithic research in Bulgaria; Mr P.Gathercole, for Oceanic research; Professor C.F. W.Higham, for the collection of ethnological material in Thailand; Dr B.Hope- Taylor, for Dark Age excavations at Bamburgh; Dr C.B. M. M^cBurney, for Palaeolithic excavations in Afghanistan; Mr A.Sherratt, for Neolithic research in Bulgaria and Yugoslavia; Mrs J. Stargardt, for ceramic research in Thailand.

Publications

- GATHERCOLE, P. (1971). 'Oceanic Resources in European Museums', *Meeting on Studies of Oceanic Cultures*, pp. 195-7. Australian National Advisory Committee for UNESCO. LIVERSIDGE, J.(1971). 'Painted Wall-plaster', in A.Brodrick, A.Hands, and D. Walker, *Excavations at Shakenoak, Oxon, ii*. LIVERSIDGE, J. (1971). 'Wall-paintings from Verulamium', in G.Sieveking (ed.), *Prehistoric and Roman Studies*.
 McLEOD, M.D. (1971). 'The Goldweights of Asante', *African Arts* (Autumn issue).
 McLEOD, M.D. (1971). 'Oracles and Accusations among the Azande', in B.Street and A.Singer (eds.), *Zande Themes*.
 McLEOD, M.D. (1971). 'Anthropology and Technology', in M.Freedman (ed.), *Trends in Social and Cultural Anthropology*, UNESCO.
 McLEOD, M.D. (1971). 'Anthropology in Schools?', *The Teacher* (June issue).

APPENDIX

ACCESSIONS 1970-71

- Bray, Dr W.*: Jar, Colombia (70.29).
Bushnell, Dr G.H.S.: Worked stones from pre-ceramic sites, Santa Elena, Ecuador (70.32-7).
Clegg, Mrs M.J.: Two pieces of decorated bark cloth, New Britain (71.37-8).
Hammond, Mr N.: Stone querns and pestles, Lubaantun, British Honduras (71.26-30).
King's Lynn Museum (by exchange): Iron Age and Roman pottery (excavated 1932), Runcton Holme, Norfolk (71.31-6).
Reichel-Dolmatoff, Mr G.: Ikat woven strips, Colombia, and Aztec clay mould, Mexico (70.30-1).
Sherratt, Mr A.: Neolithic to Bronze Age pottery from various sites in Bulgaria (71.1-25).

DEPOSITS 1970-71

Bangor Corporation: Wooden carvings, W. Africa (70.D.81-2). Bronze vessels, bells, figurines, musical instrument and porcelain teapots, Burma and China (70.D.83-90, 122-7). Egyptian stone, clay and faience figurines, seals and clay lamps (70.D.91-121, 128-9). Oceanic weapons and tools (70.D.131-8).

Ironside, Mr R.: Drums, Angola (70.D.71-9), carved ivory beads, Congo (70.D.80).

Longsands School Museum, St Neots: Maori flax cloak (70.D.130).