

(UDAR/9)

Annual Report of the Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, 1972-73

20 May 1974

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 1972 to 30 September 1973.

Staff

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

Mr Carter took up his duties as Assistant Curator in charge of Stone Age collections on 1 January 1973. This enabled Miss Cra'ster, who hitherto was responsible for all archaeological material, to concentrate her attention on the later prehistoric and Anglo-Saxon collections. All the Museum staff devoted much time during the Michaelmas Term to the completion of a feasibility study on an extension to the Museum and a reorganization of the existing display galleries. This study, undertaken in association with the [then] Estate Management Advisory Service, was designed to improve the teaching and research facilities of the Museum and was presented to the Faculty Board in January 1973. It proposed that the 1948 extension should be replaced by a new building to rise to the roof line of the Museum, which would give five floors of space for Faculty and Museum use. It also envisaged the construction of mezzanine floors in the present Babington and Bevan Halls, so that they and the Keyser Gallery could be used as research areas, where collections not on display could be arranged under conditions suitable for examination by research workers. The remaining three galleries could then be completely reorganized, to house rotating displays particularly designed for teaching. The study was referred to a special committee of the Faculty Board, who were asked to consider particularly the relation of the proposals to the accommodation needs and teaching developments of the Departments in the Faculty.

The curatorial staff gave their full complement of lectures to Students in all Parts of the Tripos Examinations. The Curator, Miss Cra'ster, and Mr McLeod each took three months' sabbatical leave during the year. Mr P. Smith, Technical Assistant, produced a range of casts for use in the practical teaching of Part I, and attended courses in fibreglass casting at the Horniman Museum, London, and Tylon Limited during the Long Vacation. Mr D. Stringer, Scientific Assistant, checked, cleaned, and repaired ethnological specimens from West Africa and Oceania in connexion with modifications to displays from these areas. The cases in the Museum are mostly old and far from dust-free, presenting continual difficulties with regard to cleaning and security. The cleaning arrangements continued to improve, however, due largely to the work of the part-time Museum attendants, who also assisted in the refurbishing of a number of displays. Sections of the Babington Hall were repainted. The display of currency in the passage joining it to the Maudslay Hall was removed, and the walls made good, preparatory to repainting. This display had been untouched since about 1927. The efficiency of the Workshop was improved by the purchase of £800 of much needed equipment for general woodworking and conservation. The staff, however, still work in cramped conditions, and there are no adequate facilities for storage of materials.

Collections

The ultimate justification for the existence of a museum lies in its ability to care for its collections and ensure that their use does not prejudice their well-being. The archaeological and ethnological collections at Cambridge have been acquired in the past ninety years, during a period when, although acquisitions have been made without undue difficulty, facilities for their care have deteriorated. The Museum staff are therefore very preoccupied with problems of storage and documentation. During the year under review, attention was devoted to several collections requiring urgent examination. Mr Carter reorganized part of the Palaeolithic display to bring it into line with teaching requirements for Part I, and he initiated an overhaul of the relevant sections of the card catalogue. Miss J. Liversidge, Honorary Keeper of the Romano-British section, continued her rearrangement of these displays. Mrs J. Stargardt, Honorary Keeper of the South-East Asian collections, redesigned the relevant displays from the Evans Collection and expanded them to include textiles obtained by A.C. Haddon in 1898. She also showed for a few months a number of pottery vessels from her own excavations in Southern Thailand. A grant from the

Evans Fund was used to employ a student to begin checking the extensive collection formed by I.H.N.Evans in South-East Asia between 1911 and 1950.

Mr McLeod continued recataloguing Asante ethnological material and began to expand his reorganized display opened the previous year, mounting an exhibition on the Asante state linked to the Faculty's teaching programme. He also continued his ethnographic research in the same area. The Curator worked on the provenance of specimens reputedly from Cook's first visit to New Zealand in 1769-70, and began the checking of collections from Island Melanesia. Displays from New Ireland, New Britain, and the Solomon Islands were refurbished.

The most notable acquisitions were:

a collection of prehistoric material from the Peterborough area, from the estate of Mr Wyman Abbott, together with a sum of money for the improvement of the British prehistoric collections;
a Bronze Age beaker and associated finds from the excavation of a barrow at Chippenham, Cambridgeshire, which was on the line of the Newmarket By-pass;

a comprehensive ethnological collection and its documentation from Chad, made on behalf of the Museum by Ellen Brown Patterson, a research student in the Department of Social Anthropology, with the aid of a grant from the Crowther-Beynon Fund;

a very valuable collection of thirty-four cylinder recordings of the music of Atchin Island, New Hebrides, made by Dr John Layard in 1914—15.

Outside activities

Miss Cra'ster and the Curator continued to serve on the M.II Committee, the Northern Section of which undertook responsibility for organizing fieldwork along the line of the Newmarket By-pass. The excavation at the Devil's Dyke, near Newmarket Racecourse, was directed by Dr B.Hope-Taylor of the Department of Archaeology. Miss Cra'ster was also the Museum's representative on the Cambridge Archaeological Committee. She continued as Editor of the Proceedings of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society. The Curator had a final year on the Council of the Royal Anthropological Institute, and was member of its Library and Ethnographic Film Committees. He represented the Museum at meetings of Curators whose institutions were to come within the new County of Cambridgeshire. He also began a survey of Pacific collections in museums in Britain, with a grant from UNESCO.

Visitors

Public attendances were 13,620, compared to 11,548 in 1971-72, the increase of over 2,000 continuing the trend of the previous year. There were visits from 162 organized parties, mostly from schools in Cambridgeshire. In May members of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society held an evening meeting in the Museum, where they were shown new exhibits and acquisitions. In July a party from the Archaeological Institute of America visited the Romano-British collections. Twenty scholars from overseas studied collections or archival material. The latter is assuming greater importance with the growth of interest in earlier scholars (especially A.C. Haddon and W. H. R Rivers), and there is now a need to collate the Museum's extensive holdings of early photographs, slides, and correspondence with the relevant artifactual collections.

Loans

Nine temporary loans were made for exhibition elsewhere, the most important being: the bulk of the Lapp Collection to the Horniman Museum, London;
18 Saxon and Viking objects to the Holbome of Menstrie Museum, Bath;
1 rare ivory and sennit necklace from Fiji (von Hügel Collection) to the Fine Arts Gallery, San Diego, California, U.S.A., for its exhibition, *Dimensions of Polynesia*;
18 groups of beads (Beck Collection) from Near Eastern sites to the Faculty of Oriental Studies; 1 sixteenth-century English Pole-hammerhead to The Armouries, Tower of London.

In addition, a small group of unworked shells and two flint blades, excavated by F. W. Green at Tomb 100, Hierakonpolis, Egypt, late in the nineteenth century, were placed on long loan at the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, where all the other objects found in this Tomb are. A nineteenth-century dulcimer, made in Stevenage, was similarly lent to Stevenage Museum.

Special Funds

Crowther-Beynon Fund. Grants totalling £3,270 were made to the following: Miss L. Brydon, fieldwork in Ghana; Dr J. Coles, excavations in Somerset; Dr H.K. Cameron, cataloguing the Brass Rubbings Collection; Professor Clark, local excavations; Cambridge Archaeological Committee, local excavations; Mr P. Gathercole, purchase of contemporary Pacific material; Dr N. Hammond, fieldwork in British Honduras; Dr B. Hope-Taylor, excavations at Bamburgh; The Museum, purchases and processing of specimens; Mr M. D. McLeod, fieldwork in Ghana and Europe on Asante material; Mr P. Sillitoe, fieldwork in New Guinea; Dr M.W. Young, fieldwork on Goodenough Island, New Guinea.

APPENDIX

ACCESSIONS TO THE MUSEUM, 1972-73

Cairns, Dr J.E.I.: Peruvian pottery and pins (73.2-9).

Emmanuel College, the Master and Fellows', early nineteenth-century wine bottle with college seal (73.92).

Evans Fund: Jute, silk, and cotton skirts, Thailand (73.84-7); two buddhist bronze heads, Thailand (73.88-9).

Hammond, Mr N.: *Maya pottery drum, Luba'antun, British Honduras (73.24).

Landbeach Society: Medieval and later sherds, etc. from Herne's Croft excavations (1972) (73.28-83).

Parker, Mr R.: Hellenistic sardonyx intaglio, Shepreth Roman villa, Cambs. (73.25).

Purchased: *A large collection of ethnographic material acquired by the Cambridge Expedition to Guyana (1971) (72.94-137).

*Fragment of Bronze Age gold tore, March (73.1).

*Celtic stone head, first century A.D. (73.27).

Sherratt, Mr A.: Collection of Neolithic sherds from various sites in Bulgaria and Yugoslavia (73.10-23 and 90).

Thompson, Dr J. E. S.: Obsidian artifacts, Calixtlahuaca, Mexico (73.26).

Acquired with the aid of a grant from the Crowther-Beynon Fund.

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