

University Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Cambridge, Annual
Report 1976/7

The Board of the Faculty of Archaeology and Anthropology presents to the University the 89th Annual Report of the Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology for the academic year 1976/7.

Staff

Curator: P.W. Gathercole
Assistant
Curators: P.L. Carter (Archaeology)
M.D. Cra'ster (Archaeology)
Dr. D.A. Swallow (Anthropology)

Cultural Assistant Staff with museum responsibilities

Technicians: P.W. Smith Assistant: J. Osbourn
 D. Stringer Photographer: G. Owen
Secretary (1/2 time): Miss L. Bodger

Honorary Keepers:

Dr. G.H.S. Bushnell (American collections)
Dr. H.K. Cameron (Brass rubbings)
Mrs. J. Cunning (Records)
Dr. G.I. Jones (Nigerian collections)
Miss J. Liversidge (Romano-British collections)
Dr. C.B.M. McBurney (Palaeolithic collections)
Mrs. J. Roth (Fijian collections)
Prof. T. Shaw (West African Archaeological collections)

Attendants (part-time)

W. Cox, A. Haworth, G. Wilson.

Implementation of the Long Term Plan

The main activity of the year was to carry through the second stage of the plan which had been approved in principle in 1976.

The first stage brought the outside store at the Short's Faculty site into operation, and this is now being used regularly by teaching staff and visiting scholars. The second stage comprised the conversion of the Keyser archaeological gallery into a store and a research/teaching area for reserve collections. Plans were approved by the General Board in Spring 1977, and most of the Long Vacation was spent in removing all collections and museum furniture from this Gallery into the Clarke Hall and the former Egyptian Room, to be ready for building operations to start on 3 October.

This large scale job involved sorting thousands of objects, boxing and arranging them, so that they can be moved back when the rebuilding of the Keyser Hall is completed in May 1978. At the same time space had to be found for cases and drawers, and temporary teaching displays set up in the other ground floor gallery. The work was kept to schedule largely because of the detailed planning done by Miss Craister and Mr. Carter. It was necessary to close the archaeological collections completely during the Long Vacation, but the intention to do this was widely publicised, so that inconvenience to visiting researchers could be avoided.

A non-recurrent grant was received from the General Board towards the cost of boxes and packing materials. A grant-in-aid was also obtained from the Museums Service for South East England, which is gratefully acknowledged.

Considerable time was given to the planning of subsequent stages in the organisation. These concerned the 1948 Extension building, an addition to the Short's store, the redevelopment of the Babington Hall along similar lines to those used in the Keyser Hall and a joint project with the Department of Archaeology to convert part of the Bone Room into a conservation laboratory.

It is gratifying to report that, as foreshadowed in the last Annual Report, the Museum was able to acquire the collection of musical and other sound producing instruments belonging to Dr. L.E.R. Picken, Fellow of Jesus College. This was due to the action of the General Board, which underwrote the purchase, and to the support of the Victoria and Albert Museum, which provided a grant-in-aid. Smaller grants were received from the Crowther- Beynon and Evans Funds. The Picken Collection comprises over 700 instruments from many parts of the World, notably Asia, Its acquisition, together with appropriate documentation, and bringing in account specimens previously acquired, means that the Museum now possesses one of the major ethno-musicological collections in Britain. The objects were catalogued by Mr. M. Good under the direction of Dr. Picken, and re boxed and stored in a manner that allows for rapid retrieval. Dr. Picken kindly presented a copy of his standard work on Turkish instruments and a xerox copy of Mr. Good's catalogue. It is satisfying to note that the collection is used regularly by research students.

Cataloguing of other specimens also absorbed much time during the year. There were 3648 catalogue entries, of which over 2746 were from old collections checked during reorganisation. The duplicate card index of material at the Port's store was extended to include the material moved from the Keyser Gallery, and work was begun on a general location index. Further sorting was done of the main geographical card index into local areas of provenance, and Mrs. Cunningham completed the major part of her reorganisation of ethnological accession records dating between 1894 and 1907.

Much of the cataloguing and the moving, sorting and boxing of collections was done by the following volunteer assistants: Robert Burn-Murdoch, Michael Good, Celia Honeycombe, Felicity Nock and Karen Cook. The contribution made by these assistants was crucial to the success of the programme, and ensured that it remained on schedule.

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The major display arranged during the year was on "Culture and Communication", which was organised by Dr. Swallow in the Babington Hall, primarily as a teaching aid for Paper 6 in the new Part I examination of the Dipos. The exhibition, which is related to the book with the same title by Professor Sir Edmund Leach, makes extensive use of photographs, drawings, explanatory texts and colour slides, and has relatively few objects. The experience gained in arranging this display will be very useful when planning new exhibitions in the Maudslay Gallery and the Andrews Balcony.

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Miss Swallow completed the requirements for the Ph.D. degree in Social Anthropology. The Curator was elected President of the South Midlands Museum Association and completed his term as Chairman of the Museum Ethnographers' Group, while on leave during Michaelmas term he lectured at the Universities of Hawaii and Otago, and examined Maori carved houses on the North Island of New Zealand. He contributed to a symposium on exchange systems in Oceania organised by the Australian Museum, Sydney, and was President of Section 25A (Archaeology) at the 48th Meeting of the Australian and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science at Melbourne University. He also completed for UNESCO a detailed survey of objects from Oceania in museums in the United Kingdom.

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It was decided in February to reconsider the 'no loans' policy which had been in operation for the previous two years, and a number of small-scale loans were made to other museums in the U.K.

isitors

In view of the closure of the archaeological galleries for the Long Vacation, a drop in attendance figures was expected. In fact, the decline was small, the number of visitors being 16,117, 502 less than in the previous year, and well above the figure of 13,604 recorded in 1974/5 before the re-organisation began. The number of visits by organized groups was 51 (69 in 1975/6). This included

a number of extra-mural classes from the Cambridge area and London, students from Leicester University, members of the South Midland Museums Federation, and parties from several other archaeological groups.

Among those visitors from outside Cambridge who examined particular collections were the following:

F.C. Blagg (London University) - Roman stonework

D. Boston (Homiman Museum, London) - Pre-Columbian pottery

Dr. A.L. Crawford (National Museum and Art Gallery, Port Moresby) - New Guinea

M.J.P. Duvoils-Varves (Paris) - Pre-Hispanic pottery

Mrs. F. Dunsmore (Guildford) - Indonesian and Malaysian fabrics Professor

J.B.C. Freire (Argentina) - South American collections

Miss S. Fulham (Upminster) - Musical instruments

J. King (Museum of Mankind, London) - Pacific N.W. Coast ethnography

Dr. and Mrs. H. Kitaoji (Australian National University) - Torres Straits collections

Ms. R. Longley (Leicester University) - Beaker pottery

Ms. N. Lutkehaus (Columbia University, New York) - Haddon and Wedgwood collections

J. Malden (Paisley Museum) - Polynesian ethnography

Dr. and Mrs. P. McCoy (Bernice P. Bishop Museum, Honolulu) - Polynesian ethnography Ms. C. Price (Vermont) - Oceanic ethnography

Professor B. Reynolds (Capt. James Cook University, Townsville, Queensland) - Australian ethnography

Professor B. Sansom (Australian National University, Canberra) -

Australian ethnography

R.V. Taylor (Barbados Museum) - Museum administration

Dr. D. Waite (University of Hawaii) - Solomon Islands ethnography

Mrs. A. Williams (Suva) - Fijian ethnography

J.C. Wright (Bernice P. Bishop Museum, Honolulu) - Oceanic ethnography

Publications by curatorial and honorary curatorial staff

H.K. Cameron

The Brasses of Middlesex. Part 18 Hornsey

(including Highgate). Transactions of the London and

Middlesex Archaeological Society. 28 1977.309-15

- P.L. Carter "The effects of climate change on settlement in Eastern Lesotho during the Middle and Later Stone Age", World Archaeology, 8, 1976: 197-20?
- P.W. Gathercole "Childe the 'Outsider'", R.A.I. Newsletter, 17, 1976:5-6
- "Cambridge and the Torres Straits, 1888-1920", Cambridge Anthropology, 3, 1977: 22-31.
- "Man and Environment in Polynesia", in V. Megaw (ed), Hunters and First Farmers outside Europe, Leicester University Press, 1977: 189-97.
- J. Liversidge "Roman Burials in the Cambridge Area", Cambridge Antiquarian Society Proceedings, LXVII, 1977: 11-38.
- C.B.M. McBurney Archaeology and the Homo Sapiens Sapiens Problem in Northern Africa. Amsterdam 1977.

Crowther-Beynon Fund

Grants amounting to £6,850 were made to the following to carry out research indicated:

	£
Prof. Daniel (Archaeology Department fund)	100
Museum development	2,300
Picken Collection of Musical Instruments	500
Moore (work on Torres Straits collections)	500
Pickles (Hadden bibliography)	150
Cameron (Brass-rubbings collection)	300
McBurney (Palaeolithic excavation, Jersey)	550
Coles (neolithic excavation, Somerset)	300
Kemp (excavation, Tel-et -Arraraa)	300
Hammond (Maya excavation, Belize)	300
McIntosh (Mali archaeological survey)	300
Taylor (Neolithic excavation, Somerset)	150
Bradfox'd (research on pottery, Girton A/S cemetery)	150
Holland (excavation, Tel-el-Duweir, Syria)	50
Leach (Trobriand <u>kuia</u>)	400
Smith (Val. script, Liberia)	200
Bilsborough (Field work in Kenya)	300

During the year 1976/7 2746 items were recatalogued.

Accessions 1976/7

- Addyraan, P.V. and Biddle, M.: Medieval and post-medieval potsherds from sites in Cambridge, mainly Sidney St. Boots Extension and Bradwell's Court (77.833-855).
- Aikman, D.J.: 6 Malayan shadow puppets, Kelantan State (77.809-814).
- Allchin, Dr. B.: Woman's costume, Sindh, Pakistan (77.829).
- Biddle, M.: Medieval potsherds and small finds, Therfield, Herts, (77.856-8).
- Bogata National Museum: Textile scraps, Guane Indians of Colombia (77.830).
- * Cambridge University Expedition to badakh, Kashmir, India: Collection of clothing, utensils etc. from a village in Leh Tahsil, Ladakh (77.859-884).
- * Denton, Mrs. R.K.: A further collection from the Mah Meri of Malaysia, comprising household implements and tools, fishing equipment etc. (77.815).
- Department of the Environment: Medieval potsherds, bronze and iron tools and weapons etc. excavated by Guy Beresford from the deserted Medieval village at Wintringham, Hunts (77.747-808).
- Frend, Prof. W.H.C.: Roman potsherds, coins, tiles, bone and iron objects, Godmanchester Villa (77.706-746).
- Greaves, Mrs.: Neolithic stone axe, Malting Lane, Newnham, Cambridge (77.886).
- Hammond, J.: Flint arrowhead, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan (77.885).
- * Hammond, Professor N. : Mayan pottery dish and beaker, Cuello, Belize (77.889-890).
- Haynes, B. : Zulu metal-work, ornaments and utensils, collection by donor's father, Canon C.B.H. Haynes (77.819-826).
- Hewett, H.J.: Maori utensils, New Zealand (77.816-818).
- Madha, , M. : 5 watercolours and one palm-leaf manuscript, Thailand (77.827-8).
- Martin, J.S.: Neolithic flint axe, Denny Abbey, Waterbeach, Cambs (77.888).
- McBumey, Prof. C.B.M.: Palaeolithic pebble-tool, Sarakhs, E. Iran (77.832).
- * Picken, Dr. L.E.R.: An extensive collection of musical instruments, mainly from Turkey and the Far East, but also from the Americas, Africa, Europe, and the Asian mainland. (77.1-704).
- Shrubbs, Mrs.: Neolithic stone axe, Lode, Cambs (77.887).

* (Obtained with the assistance of a grant from the Crowther-Beynon Fund).