

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

MUSEUM OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY



The Maudslay and Andrews Galleries: due for refurbishment in 1986-87.

The Faculty Board of Archaeology and Anthropology presents to the University the 97th Annual Report of the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology for the academical year 1984-85.

ADMINISTRATION

The Board wishes to pay tribute to the memory of Dr H. K. Cameron, M.A., Ph.D., F.S.A., who had served as Honorary Keeper of the collection of rubbings of monumental brasses since March 1971. Dr Cameron died on 13 May 1985: his expertise and cheerful enthusiasm will be greatly missed.

The Museum Committee met four times during the year, under the Chairmanship of Professor A. C. Renfrew.

STAFF

During 1984-85 the staff of the Museum was as follows:-

Curator: David W. Phillipson, M.A., Ph.D., F.S.A.

Senior Assistant Curator (post-palaeolithic archaeology):

Miss M. D. Cra'ster, M.A., F.S.A.

Assistant Curator (palaeolithic archaeology):

P. L. Carter, M.A., Ph.D.

Assistant Curator (anthropology):

P. Sant-Cassia, B.A., Ph.D. (from May 1985)

Attendant: B. Lewis

Attendants (part-time): H. G. Cambridge, B.E.M.

Mrs P. A. Came

Honorary Keepers:

H. K. Cameron, M.A., Ph.D., F.S.A. (*Brass rubbings*)

G. I. Jones, M.A., Ph.D. (*Nigerian anthropology*)

G. A. Lewis, M.A., B.M., B.Ch., M.R.C.P., Ph.D.

(*Melanesian anthropology*)

L.E.R. Picken, M.A., Ph.D., Sc.D., F.B.A. (*Organology*)

In addition, the following assistant staff of the Faculty of Archaeology and Anthropology held specific Museum responsibilities:-

Secretary (part-time): Mr R. C. Fisk, M.A.

Museum Assistant: J. Osbourn

Head of Workshop: P. W. Smith

Workshop Assistant: M. Payne, M.I.A.C.T.

Photographer: G. J. Owen, L.B.I.P.

The Board was both relieved and gratified to receive, after a long delay, permission to fill the post of Assistant Curator for anthropology which had been vacant since 1983.

Dr P. Sant-Cassia was appointed to this position in May 1985: we wish him well in his career with the Museum.

Prior to Dr Sant-Cassia's appointment, Dr H. L. Moore served as a temporary curatorial assistant in anthropology.

Her employment, made possible by a non-recurrent grant, provided much needed assistance and was greatly appreciated.

As noted below, most areas of the Museum's activities have shown significant expansion during the year, to the extent that pressures due to shortages of staff are becoming increasingly severe. With only one half-time secretary in the Museum, the needs in this area are particularly acute.

The achievements of 1984-85 have been greatly assisted by the work of part-time helpers, including students, some of whom have given their assistance unpaid. The help of Mrs M. H. Harris throughout the year has been particularly valued, but the Board wishes to record its gratitude to all these assistants.

FINANCE

Adjustment to the level of University provision for the Museum's recurrent expenditure did not exceed the current inflation rate.

A non-recurrent grant of £7,900 was made available by the General Board to finance reprocessing and storage of certain Egyptian and Near Eastern collections and of material exhibited in the Maudslay and Andrews galleries prior to their refurbishment.

Additional grants were obtained from the Area Museums Service for South Eastern England for wooden storage boxes (£1,140), for mounting the Biskupin Exhibition (£160) and from the Cambridgeshire County Museums Advisory Committee for computer equipment (£1,000).

EXHIBITIONS

With the removal of specimens from the Andrews gallery prior to refurbishment, the opportunity was taken to present in this area a loan exhibition ***Biskupin - Poland's Iron Age Lake Village*** from the National Archaeological Museum of the Polish Academy of Sciences. The exhibition, which was on view from 2 - 27 November 1984, was accompanied by an illustrated lecture given by Mr W. Piotrowski.

A small display of Cambridgeshire Anglo-Saxon material was mounted on the occasion of the Cambridge meeting in August of the International Conference of Anglo-Saxonists.

A photographic exhibition ***Prehistoric rock engravings of Mont Segá*** was mounted on the Museum staircase by Mr C. Chippindale.

TEACHING

All members of the curatorial staff contributed to the teaching programmes of the Faculty at both graduate and undergraduate levels. They were particularly involved with the M.Phil. course on Social Anthropology and the Work of a Museum, with preparing that on Museum Practice and Archaeology, and with the provision of practical classes for the Department of Archaeology. Increased use of the archaeology displays, both for teaching and for private study by undergraduates, is warmly welcomed.

REDEVELOPMENT

STORES

With the removal to storage of material previously housed in the Maudslay and Andrews galleries, some reorganisation of the stores has been necessary, both at Downing Street and at the external building. Additional racking will need to be provided as a matter of urgency if the storage system is to continue functioning efficiently.

B

Because of site-redevelopment the Museum was required to vacate the Old Oppenheimer Laboratory at High Cross, which had been used as a store for outsize collections and for surplus display materials. These items have been fumigated and incorporated into existing storage, further exacerbating pressure of space.

Improvements were effected to the intruder alarm systems at the external building and at the Downing Street Museum.

MAUDSLAY AND ANDREWS GALLERIES

Work has begun on the long task of preparing the Museum's two upper galleries for refurbishment. This involves, as noted above, the removal of the existing displays and storage facilities in these areas and the re-processing of very large numbers of specimens. At the same time, plans are being drawn up both for the renovations of these galleries and for the new displays which they will in due course house.

CENTENARY APPEAL

W

The University Appeal launched in May 1984 to mark the Museum's centenary seeks to raise a total of £400,000: £250,000 for the renewal of the upper display galleries and £150,000 for the endowment of a graduate traineeship. By October 1985 the appeal had raised a total of £204,869.

DOCUMENTATION

A start has been made on computerising the Museum's catalogue and documentation. Following an advisory report prepared in 1982 by Dr A. Fletcher of Leicestershire Museums, Dr Carter, in association with Dr M. F. Porter, has implemented a series of information retrieval programmes for the Museum's needs both in archaeology and anthropology. Part of the African Stone Age data and (by courtesy of Ms A. Lovelace) much of that relating to the Bateson collection from New Guinea has already been entered into the computer. The Museum is now actively seeking the substantial funds that will be required if it is to be completed within approximately five years.

CONSERVATION

Mr Smith treated 52 objects in the Conservation Laboratory, ranging from consolidation of a soya jar from New Guinea to impregnation of neolithic Danish amber beads.

Although fewer specimens were conserved than in previous years, these were more varied and complex. Corrosion in several iron and bronze items was arrested. A particularly complex task was the consolidation of a pair of 16th/17th-century leather and silk shoes.

ACQUISITIONS

New acquisitions registered during 1984-85 numbered 73. In addition, there were eight new deposits and 908 registrations resulting from work on collections not previously accessioned in detail.

GIFTS

The following gifts to the Museum were received with gratitude: -

Commander C. A. Bateman - Aztec pottery (1985.70-1)

Mrs S. Gunn - Wooden door lock from South Yemen

(1985.1) Miss U. Lumley - collection of early twentieth-century artefacts from North China (1985.2-69)

Ms F. Wilmot - Grindstone from Bay Islands, Honduras (1985.72)

DEPOSITS

The specimens listed below have been received on longterm loan from their owners:-

Master and Fellows of Emmanuel College - Tibetan mask and metalwork: an addition to the Williamson Collection (1985.D.1-7)

Dr E. Goody - Ghanaian textiles (1984.D.31)

LOANS

An increased number of loans was approved during the year, as listed below.

For long-term custody:-

A collection of objects made at Norman Cross by French

Prisoners of War, on long-term loan to Peterborough City Museum.

Two collections of wax-cylinder recordings, made respectively in Ghana and in Melanesia, on longterm loan to the British Library National Sound Archive.

For research:-

A collection of photographs by James Hornell to the Royal Scottish Museum for study and listing by Mr and Mrs D. Heppell.

Four shell artefacts from Barbados to the Institute of Archaeology, London, for microwear analysis by Mr P. Drewett.

For exhibition: -

Two Amazonian condor feet, to the Museum of Mankind, London.

Archaeological material from Snailwell, Fordham and Somerset to the National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland, Edinburgh.

The Fijian breastplate of Tanoa, High Chief of Bau, to the Smithsonian Institution, Washington.

Artefacts from Haddenham, to Ely Museum.

VISITORS

The year has seen major increases in all categories of visitors to the Museum. The stage has now been reached when limitations of staff will prevent full servicing of visitors' needs if numbers continue to rise. Research visitors, many of whom work in the Museum for several days, take up an increasing proportion of curatorial staff time. Public opening hours, at present restricted by the availability of attendant staff to 12½ hours per week, are such as to cause congestion, especially in the summer months and during school holidays.

RESEARCH

With the return to full availability of the archaeological collections following completion of the Clarke Hall displays, there has been a major increase in the number of research visitors from outside of Cambridge. Their fields of study may be summarised as follows:-

Anthropology:

Anthropology:

| | |
|------------------------|-------|
| African | 8 |
| American | 9 |
| Asian | 6 |
| Australian/ Oceania | 20 |
| | ----- |
| Total | 43 |

Archaeology:

| | |
|-------------|-------|
| Paleolithic | 14 |
| British | 34 |
| European | 12 |
| Asian | 4 |
| African | 13 |
| American | 3 |
| | ----- |
| | 80 |

| | |
|-----------|----|
| Archives | 4 |
| Museology | 11 |

The origin of visiting researchers is shown below:-

| | British Isles | Europe | Africa | Asia | Oceania | Australasia/America |
|---------------------|---------------|--------|--------|------|---------|---------------------|
| Universities | 32 | 8 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 16 |
| Museum | 24 | 7 | - | - | 4 | 7 |
| Research units etc. | 7 | - | 1 | - | - | - |
| Other | 18 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Total | 81 | 16 | 4 | 4 | 8 | 25 |

The public specimen-identification service dealt with 36 enquiries.

EDUCATIONAL

There has been a major and most welcome increase in the number of organised parties visiting the Museum, especially groups of schoolchildren. Over 140 such parties were admitted, an increase of over 130% on the previous year's total which was itself a record. It is particularly gratifying to note the high proportion of school parties which come well prepared to work on a particular subject-area. Other groups which made special visits included the Cambridge Society and the Friends of the Pitt Rivers Museum (Oxford).

PUBLIC

Public visitors to the Museum during 1984-85 totalled 21,015: easily the highest total on record. While the total represents a rise of 43% over that recorded in 1983-84, it is noteworthy that numbers in the non-summer months were particularly increased. It may be surmised that local residents as well as tourists are becoming increasingly aware of the Museum and its facilities.

CROWTHER-BEYNON FUND

The following grants were approved for payment in August 1985, from the fund established for the benefit of the Museum under the terms of the will of the late Mr V. B Crowther-Beynon.

MAJOR GRANTS (existing collections)

Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, £5,000 for
new archaeological displays in the Clarke Hall
Mr J. Moss-Eccardt, £1,000 for archival research
Ms C. Clark, £560 for archaeological survey in the
Bay Islands, Honduras

MAJOR GRANTS (new collections)

Dr J. Oates, £1,000 for excavation at Tel Brak, Syria
Dr M. Horton, £1,000 for archaeological survey of Pemba
Mr A. Oendo, £840 for sociological fieldwork in Kenya
Mr A. Thorold, £800 for anthropological fieldwork in South
Malawi
Mr D. Zeitlyn, £750 for anthropological fieldwork in Cameroun

MINOR GRANT

Mr S. Rault, £150 for excavation in Jersey

STAFF ACTIVITIES

The Curator, Dr Phillipson, is Hon. Secretary of the British Institute in Eastern Africa and convened a committee responsible for organising British excavations at Soba on the Blue Nile. He serves on the Councils of the Society of Antiquaries of London, the Prehistoric Society and the Cambridge Antiquarian Society, and is Vice-Chairman of the Cambridgeshire Curators' Panel. He represents the University on the Cambridgeshire Museums Advisory Committee and the Cambridge and County Folk Museum Council of Management, and is a member of the Cambridge City Council's Tourism Liaison Working Group. He attended a colloquium of the Centre International des Civilisations Bantu in Libreville, Gabon, was elected co-President of the archaeological section and presented a paper on "Bantu-speaking Peoples in Southern Africa:

an Archaeological Perspective". He lectured at the Universite Libre in Brussels for an E . E . C.-sponsored International Certificate course in African Archaeology and gave a seminar paper at the School of Oriental and African Studies in the University of London.

Miss Cra'ster, Senior Assistant Curator, is editor of the ***Proceedings of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society*** and a member of that Society's Council. She represents the University of Cambridge on the Lincolnshire Archaeology Trust and the Museums Association on the Wisbech Museum Committee. In addition, she is a member of the Cambridgeshire Archaeology Committee, the Nene Valley Research Committee and the West Stow Anglo-Saxon Village Trust.

Dr Carter was again asked to advise the Commonwealth Institute, London, on the preparation of new displays of Stone Age material.

Dr Sant-Cassia, prior to his appointment as Assistant Curator, held a Research Fellowship at Christ's College and was visiting lecturer at the Faculta d.i Scienze Politiche in Turin University. In September 1985 he undertook anthropological fieldwork in Cyprus, investigating local and elite

politics and economic change in the Paphos District. He also attended a conference on ethnographic film organised by the National Film and Television School and the Royal Anthropological Institute and delivered a paper "Regards sur les sociétés européennes".

The following works by members of the Museum staff were published during the year:-

- G. N. Bailey, P. L. Carter et *al.*, "Palaeolithic investigations in Epirus: the results of the first season's excavations at Klithi, 1983", **Annual British School of Archaeology at Athens**, 79 (1984).
- D. W. Phillipson, "An archaeological reconsideration of Bantu expansion", **Muntu**, 2 (1985), pp. 69-84.
- D. W. Phillipson, **African Archaeology**, Cambridge University Press.
- D. W. Phillipson, "Aspects of early food production in northern Kenya", **Origin and Early Development of Food-Producing Cultures in North-Eastern Africa**, ed. L. Krzyzaniak and M. Kobusiewicz, Poznan, 1984.
- C. Roubet and P. L. Carter, "La domestication au Maghreb: état de la question", *ibid.*
- C. Roubet and P. L. Carter, "Origine néolithique de la transhumance ovine dans le Maghreb oriental", **Early Settlement in the Western Mediterranean Islands and the Peripheral Areas**, ed. W. Waldren et *al.*, Oxford, B.A.R. (1984).
- P. Sant-Cassia, "Some observations on the position of women in two Mediterranean societies: Cyprus and Tunisia", in **Donne e Società nel Mondo Mediterraneo**, Palermo, 1984.
- P. Sant-Cassia, "Changes to the significance of the house and social space in rural Cyprus", in **La vie quotidienne à Chypre de l'antiquité à nos jours**, Paris (Musée de l'Homme) and Cyprus (Perentides Foundation), 1985.