

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE



MUSEUM OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY



*Delegation from the Indian State of Nagaland accepting the videodisc on behalf of the Naga people, (see page 11) 1-r: Vamuzo, Alemchiba, Professor Alan Macfarlane, Anita Herle, Lily Das, Sarah Harrison.*

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1991-92

The Faculty Board of Archaeology and Anthropology presents  
to the University the 104th Annual Report of the Museum of  
Anthropology and Anthropology for the academical year 1991-92.

**ADMINISTRATION**

The Museum Committee met three times during the year, under the chairmanship of Professor M. Jones.

*STAFF*

For the year under review the staff of the Museum was as follows:

*Curator:* David w. Phillipson, M.A., Ph.D.,

*F.S.A. Assistant Curators (archaeology):*

C. R. Chippindale, B.A., Ph.D., F.S.A., M.I.F.A.

R. B. Boast, B.A., M.A., Ph.D. (from 1 April 1992) *Assistant Curator (anthropology):*

Ms A. C. Herle, B.A., M.Phil.

*Administrative Secretary (part-time):* Ms A. Wetten

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

*Museum Assistant:* J. Osbourn

*Attendant:* B. Lewis

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

Mrs A. Came

E. Kirby

*Honorary Keepers:*

G.I. Jones, M.A., Ph.D. (Nigerian 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:

*Head of Workshop:* P. W. Smith

*Workshop Assistant:* C. Langford

*Photographer:* G.J. Own. A.B.I.P.P., ARPS

Dr Robin Boast was appointed an Assistant Curator in Archaeology from 1 April. Following University and Museum work in U.S.A., he has excavated widely in Britain, acted as computer consultant on a number of projects and completed his Ph.D. at Cambridge in 1991. The Board welcomes Dr Boast to the staff of the Museum and trusts that his work there will be both lasting and congenial.

The Board was sorry to learn that, due to ill health, Mr Harry Cambridge was unable to continue as part-time Attendant beyond the end of the academical year. Mr Cambridge joined the Museum in October 1982 and, since his retirement in September 1989, continued his work on Saturdays and during the summer holiday period. We are grateful for his cheerful assistance and will miss him.

Mrs Mary Hill Harris has completed her organisation of the special exhibition 'The Americas 1492' which opened on 15 June and which is described later in this Report. Mrs Harris' employment on this project has been made possible by a series of grants from the Crowther-Beynon Fund, but her extensive additional work on the Museum's American archaeological collections has been conducted voluntarily and the Board is deeply grateful for this continued assistance.

As recorded elsewhere in this Report, a number of other temporary employees and volunteers have contributed significantly to the work of the Museum during the period under review. Their assistance is greatly appreciated.

*FINANCE*

There has been no significant improvement in the University's provision for the Museum's recurrent financial needs, although the Board is grateful for an increase broadly in line with the current rate of inflation.

In recent years, the University Grants Committee (latterly the Universities Funding Council and now the Higher Education Funding Council) has recognised the Museum's status by including it on the very short list of institutions for which 'Special Factor Funding' is designated. Recent reports that the H.E.F.C. is considering the discontinuance of Special Factor Funding have elicited widespread expressions of concern, notably from the Museums Association and the Museums and Galleries Commission.

The Museum's difficulties in this area are shared by other University museums, in Cambridge and elsewhere. There is still no funding mechanism which takes account of the fact that, in addition to their role in university teaching and research, such institutions have a wider public function as custodians of a not insignificant part of the national (and international) cultural patrimony. Strenuous, but so far unsuccessful, efforts are being made to stress this point to government agencies at both the national and local level.

By contrast, it is encouraging to report the Museum's success in obtaining grants for particular projects. The ongoing computerisation of collection documentation has benefited from a University non-recurrent grant of £5,000, £4,200 from the Area Museums Service for South-East England, £465 from the Thomas Mulvey Fund and £250 from Cambridgeshire County Council.

A grant under a Pilgrim Trust scheme administered by the Museums and Galleries Commission is providing £9,600 for the detailed cataloguing of the Museum's important collection of artefacts from the North-West coast of America.

Once again, Cambridge City Council provided a grant - £1000 in 1992 - for the development of the Museum's services to the public. The money has been spent on new signboards, improvements to the entrance area, and the maintenance of full public opening during the summer holiday season. The City Council has also made an allocation of £200 to support the Museum's publicity through the Council's channels.

Publicity for the 'The Americas 1492' exhibition was supported by a grant of £500 from Cambridgeshire County Council.

#### **EXHIBITIONS**

The successful 'Nagas' exhibition in the Andrews Gallery was dismantled and replaced in 1992 by 'The Americas 1492'. which opened on 15 July. Mrs Mary Hill Harris has been responsible for the researching and preparation of this new special exhibition, which is based on the Museum's own collections, supplemented by loans from the British Museum, Birmingham Museum, the Pitt Rivers Museum in the University of Oxford, and the National Maritime Museum. The project has been financed by grants from the Crowther-Beynon Fund, with lesser donations from other sources as noted in this and previous Reports.

The exhibition describes the peoples of Mexico, South America and the Caribbean who were encountered by Christopher Columbus and the Europeans who followed him. It emphasises the

cultural diversity of indigenous American peoples and the contributions which they have made to human development in all parts of the world. A section on Columbus and his voyages, with early maps, is followed by sections on the Arawak and Carib peoples of the Caribbean, on Mesoamerica including the late Maya and Aztec cultures, and on the Incas of Peru and the search for gold. A final section illustrates many items now in common use throughout the world which originated in the Americas. It also shows ways in which European materials, technology and ideas have been adapted into Amerindian life-styles.

'The Americas 1492' has attracted considerable interest both from the general public and from schools, which are able to use it as a teaching aid for topics in the 'national curriculum'.

Thanks to the cooperation of the Cambridgeshire County Museums Officer, a teacher's guide to the exhibition has been prepared by Mrs C. Patel, and arrangements have been made for the gallery to be open for pre-booked school parties outside the normal public hours on two mornings per week from November 1992, the cost being underwritten by Cambridgeshire County Council. A successful private view of the exhibition on 29 September was attended by 66 school teachers.

## **MAINTENANCE AND DEVELOPMENT**

### *BUILDINGS*

The year has been marked by substantial building work in and adjacent to the Museum. Extensive repairs to the roof of the main storage area were undertaken by the Estate Management and Building Service, and will continue next year. The Museum

staircase and entrance were re-decorated and the lighting enhanced.

Lengthy preparations preceded the demolition of the '1948 Extension' which adjoined the Museum to the south and the erection of buildings for the McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, the contractors for which began work in August. As noted below, the conservation facility has been moved from the '1948 Extension' to the Garrod Laboratory on the third floor of the Museum. It has been necessary to insert structural supports on all floors of the Museum adjacent to the new building and, as a result, collections housed in those areas are currently inaccessible. These upheavals have meant that the Museum staff at all levels have spent much time in discussion, negotiation, re-organisation and invigilation connected with the McDonald Institute construction programme. The disruption to the work of the Museum has been considerable, but thanks are due to colleagues and contractors for their efforts to minimise the difficulties which have been encountered.

#### *GALLERIES*

All three galleries of the Museum were open throughout the year, other than for the two-month period when exhibitions in the Andrews Gallery were changed. Public attendances, detailed below, were encouraging, but probably reduced in August and September because of building works adjacent to the Museum's entrance.

Video-viewing equipment was installed in the Andrews Gallery, and films on Amerindian peoples are shown at advertised times.



*DOCUMENTATION*

Internal and external grant support permitted the employment of Mr T. Cadbury, Ms A. Cuss and Ms A. McKeating, and excellent progress was made. Over 12,000 records were transcribed onto the database from the old card index. The computer catalogue in archaeology now covers all non-Roman British and European material; the African and Asian collections are well in hand. In anthropology, documentation work mostly concerned the processing of new accessions, and the further development of cataloguing terms and conventions well suited to this material. Assistance with cataloguing was provided by students taking the Museum Option of the M.Phil in Social Anthropology, and by Mr M. Perrott.

*COLLECTIONS*

Substantial work has been undertaken on the teaching and research collections. The generous volunteer assistance of Ms K. Armstrong, Ms J. Howett and Ms S. Roberts enabled a full catalogue to be produced of the archaeological teaching material, which will lead to its reorganisation and rationalisation. A start has also been made on adding storage- location data to the records of the archaeological collections, both at Downing Street and at the external store: Ms E. Tsuka kindly volunteered to assist with this project. Mr T. Hoare continued his invaluable volunteer assistance with the anthropological collections and the archives.

*PUBLICATIONS*

A 64-page booklet prepared by Mrs Harris to accompany 'The Americas 1492' exhibition has enjoyed steady sales. The assistance of Cambridgeshire County Council has permitted the production of teachers' guides to this exhibition (written by Mrs C. Patel) and to the Anthropology displays (written by Ms J. Smith and Ms J. Barraclough, both at the University's Education Department). Ms M. Earl also assisted with preparing a leaflet for visitors to the Anthropology Gallery.

*CONFERENCE*

On 2 March the Museum held a one-day meeting entitled 'Australia Day: the old and the new in Australian archaeology' at the University Centre. The meeting was organised by Dr Chippindale with the assistance of Museum staff and of staff and graduate students from the Archaeology Department.

Papers were given by Bert Roberts and Nigel Spooner (University of Oxford), Giff Miller (University of Colorado, Boulder), John Head (Australian National University, Canberra), Rhys Jones (Australian National University, Canberra), Christopher Chippindale, Josephine Flood (Australian Heritage Commission, Canberra), Tim Murray (Latrobe University, Melbourne), Scott Cane (National Heritage Studies, New South Wales), Bob Ware (South Australian State Government, Adelaide) and Howard Morphy (University of Oxford). Some of the Australian visitors were in England for other reasons, but three came especially for the occasion.

The 'old' in the title was the early settlement of Australia, now dated about 55,000 BP or beyond, and its

archaeological implications. The 'new' was the archaeology of European contact and the circumstances of archaeology in Australia today.

It is believed that Australia Day was the first meeting devoted to Australian archaeology ever held outside the region. A set of exceptionally good papers were heard by an audience totalling 150 - a remarkably large number given the remoteness of the continent from most British archaeologists' direct concerns. A complementary workshop for the speakers was equally successful.

#### **WORKSHOP AND CONSERVATION LABORATORY**

Construction of the new McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, noted above, has necessitated closure of the Faculty Workshop and of the Museum's Conservation Laboratory. The former will be replaced in the new McDonald building when that is completed in 1994. The latter is being moved into the Museum proper, where increased space and security will be available.

Mr Smith, assisted by Messrs Langford and Osbourn, played a large part in setting up 'The Americas 1492' exhibition in the Andrews Gallery. This work included modifications to cases as well as conservation and mounting of objects for display.

A total of 116 items received conservation treatment during the year, ranging from the Ridgeway sundial to Japanese coins.

#### **LOANS**

Approval was given for the following loans to exhibitions outside Cambridge:

Eight Amerindian artefacts to Glasgow Museums and Art Galleries, for the 'Home of the Brave' exhibition. May-September 1992.

An Inuit mask, to the Cultural Centre of the Canadian High Commission, London, for display from October 1992 for four months.

Samples of sheet bronzework from the Santon (Norfolk) hoard were loaned to Dr P. Northover of Oxford University, for S.E.M. examination.

Within Cambridge, 26 ancient Egyptian tools and weapons were loaned to the Faculty of Oriental Studies for temporary display in the foyer to the Faculty building.

#### **CROWTHER-BEYNON FUND**

The following grants were approved from the Fund established for the benefit of the Museum under the will of the late Mr V. B. Crowther-Beynon.

Ms E. Carter - Publication of the Museum's Andaman Island collection: £1500.

Ms C. Chou - Research and collections on Indonesian fishing equipment: £600.

Mrs M. H. Harris - Study of Barbados pottery: £1300.

Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology - Transcription of catalogue cards onto computerised database: £6500.

Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology - Preparation of 'The Americas 1492' exhibition: £4200.

Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology - Curatorial work on the palaeolithic collections: £2250.

Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology - Provision of video programmes for gallery and teaching use: £1350.

Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology - Acquisition of Specimens Fund (for Australian bark painting): £750.

Ms K. Norget - Completion of video in Mexico: £350.

Dr S. Rostas - Collection of Concheros artefacts, Mexico: £1815.

Dr E. Schalk - Publication of her dissertation on the Bronze Age at Hernadkak: £750.

#### **VISITORS**

In March 1992 the Museum was honoured by a visit from Vamuzo, Chief Minister of the Indian State of Nagaland, accompanied by Shri Alemchiba, Curator of the Nagaland State Museum, and other officials. The visitors viewed the exhibition on the Nagas and the videodisc on Naga culture recently produced in the Department of Social Anthropology. The videodisc and a player were presented by Professor A.D.J.Macfarlane to the visitors who, in turn, gave Naga textiles and other artefacts, many of which are now in the Museum.

*RESEARCH*

The Museum continued to receive substantial numbers of researchers from outside Cambridge. Access to the research collections was, however, severely curtailed by essential building repairs in the storage areas and, during the second half of the year, by construction work in connection with the new McDonald Institute.

The fields of study of visiting researchers may be summarised as follows:

Anthropology	
European	1
African	1
American	3
Asian	14
Australasian/Oceanian	15
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Total	34
Archaeology	
British	25
European	11
African	15
American	8
Asian	1
	<hr/>
	60
Archives	10
Museology	10

Researchers came from the following places:-

	Universities	Museums	Other
UK	22	18	9
Europe	11	9	9
Africa	1	3	-
America	3	7	-
Asia	1	-	2
Australasia/Oceania	4	2	3

A much larger number of research enquiries was dealt with by the curatorial staff in correspondence or by telephone.

#### *PUBLIC*

Public visitors to the Museum during the year totalled 14,887, an increase of 16.5% over the figure recorded in 1990-91. Pre-booked parties, predominantly from schools, showed a similar increase, to a total of 73.

Despite this overall increase, visitor figures for late August and September were disappointing, probably due to the proximity of major building works.

The specimen-identification service dealt with 48 enquiries.

#### **ACQUISITIONS**

During 1991, 200 new accessions were catalogued. The majority were African archaeological and anthropological material which had been obtained many years ago but not properly catalogued.

*GIFTS*

Ms K. Norget (through Crowther-Beynon fund) - Artefacts from Oaxaca, Mexico, relating to the 'Day of the Dead' (1991.151-200).

*BEQUEST*

Professor Sir Edmund Leach - Collection of Chinese jades (1991.12-38) .

**DISPOSAL**

A quantity of archaeological material excavated in Menorca by the late Dr M. A. Murray and accessioned in error was returned to the Museu de Menorca in accordance with the terms of the original excavation permit.

**TEACHING**

As in previous years, all members of the curatorial staff undertook teaching for the Faculty to the full extent permitted by the University Ordinances. The majority of this teaching was in connexion with the successful M.Phil. options in Social Anthropology and the work of a Museum and in Archaeological Heritage Management and Museums. In addition, Dr Phillipson was responsible for the teaching and supervision of M.Phil. and Ph.D. students in African archaeology.

**STAFF ACTIVITIES**

Dr Phillipson continued to hold the office of Reader in African Prehistory concurrently with the Curatorship. He was elected Chairman of the Cambridgeshire Curators Panel and Vice-Chairman of the County Museums Advisory Committee. He continued as a Council member of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society, and as



a University representative on the Tourism Liason Group of Cambridge City Council. Beyond the University, he was Treasurer of the Society of Antiquaries of London and of the Sutton Hoo Research Trust. As Hon. Secretary of the British Institute in Eastern Africa he is investigating the possibility of resuming large-scale archaeological excavations at Aksum in Ethiopia. He attended conferences in African archaeology in California and Poland, and UNESCO editorial meetings in Berlin and Paris. He is the editor of the annual African Archaeological Review (Cambridge University Press).

Dr Chippindale was on leave during the Easter Term, which he spent as a Visiting Fellow in the Anthropology Section of the Australian Museum (Sydney) and as a Visiting Fellow at the Australian National University and its North Australian Research Unit. He continued fieldwork with Australian and Canadian colleagues in the rock-art of the Kakadu region of Arnhem Land, in north Australia. He was again series consultant to Thames Television's Down to Earth (Channel 4), and contributed films of his own to the programmes; one of these won the television prize in the British Archaeological Awards for 1992. He edited a final issue of Antiquity of his term as editor, and gave lectures and seminars in various places and occasions that ranged from a day-school in St Albans for the University's Department of Continuing Education, through a research seminar in Darwin (Australia) at the Northern Territory Museum, to four papers at the Second AURA International Rock-art Conference in Cairns (Australia).

Since his appointment as Assistant Curator in April, Dr Boast has been appointed Secretary of the Cambridge

Archaeological Committee, and External Consultant on prehistoric ceramics for English Heritage's Fenland Management Project. He represented the Museum at the Museums Computer Group conference.

Ms Herle has been elected Secretary of the Museum Ethnographers Group, and hosted a meeting of the Group at the Museum, which enabled members to view the 'Nagas' exhibition and the videodisc on Naga culture. She also became a Fellow of the Royal Anthropological Institute. She visited Canada to research the implications of a recent report produced by the Task Force on the Relations between Museums and First Nations People. During this research she met and interviewed staff at the Canadian Museum of Civilization (Ottawa), the Royal Ontario Museum (Toronto) and the Woodlands Cultural Centre (Six Nations Indian Reservation).

Mrs Harris addressed the Conference of Anglo-American historians in London, and gave a talk on The Americas 1492 exhibition as part of the Cambridge Festival.

#### PUBLICATIONS

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

- C. R. Chippindale, 1991. 'Production', in Council for British Archaeology, Signposts for Archaeological Publication. London CBA: 16-34.
- C. R. Chippindale, 1992. 'Grammars of Archaeological Design: a generative and geometrical approach to the form of artefacts', in J.-C. Gardin and C.S. Peebles (eds.), Representations in Archaeology Bloomington, Indiana University Press: 251-76.

- M. H. Harris, 1992. The Americas 1492. (exhibition handbook).
- A. C. Herle, 1992. 'Naga history Repatriated on Videodisc'.  
Museums Journal. 92,4.
- A. C. Herle, 1992. 'Naga history Repatriated on Videodisc'.  
Bulletin: The Newsletter of the British Association for  
South Asian Studies. 17 (March).
- A. C. Herle, 1992. Cultural Exchange between Naga People and  
CUMAA'. Museum Ethnographers Group News, July.
- D. W. Phillipson, 1990. 'Keith Robinson and Iron Age  
Archaeology'. Zimbabwe. 3.
- D. W. Phillipson, 1990. 'Aksum in Africa'. Journal of Ethiopian  
Studies, 23 .