Yarjung Kromchhain Tamu at the private view of a new display of Tamu religious material from Nepal which opened in the Maudslay Gallery (June 1993).
The Faculty Board of Archaeology and Anthropology presents to the University the 105th Annual Report of the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology for the academical year 1992-93.

**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 MA Ph.D FSA

*Assistant Curators (archaeology):*
C.R. Chippindale BA Ph.D FSA MIFA
R.B. Boast BA MA Ph.D

*Assistant Curator (anthropology):*
Ms A.C. Herle BA MPhil.

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

*Secretary (part-time)*
Mrs R.C. Fisk MA

*Museum Assistant:*
J. Osbourn

*Attendant:*
B. Lewis

*Attendants (part-time):*
Mrs A. Came
E. Kirby
B. Green (from 6 March 1993)
F. E. Reeves (from 15 March 1993)

*Honorary Assistant Curator:*
Mary Hill Harris AB MA
Honorary Keepers:
G.I. Jones MA Ph.D (Nigerian anthropology)
L.E.R. Picken, MA Ph.D Sc.D FBA (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. Owen ABIPP ARPS

There were no changes in the curatorial staff during the year. Dr Chippindale was on sabbatical leave in Australia from April to July. Dr Phillipson proceeded on sabbatical leave in September for four months. Dr Chippindale serving as Acting Curator during his absence. Dr Chippindale was promoted to Senior Assistant Curator with effect from 1 October 1993.

The Museum welcomed two new part-time Attendants, Messrs B. Green and F.E. Reeves, who work on Saturdays and on days when other Attendants are on holiday.

As in the past, the Museum has depended very heavily upon the services of temporary employees and volunteers. Dr Gillian Crowther worked throughout the year on her catalogue of artefacts from the Northwest Coast of America, financed by a grant from the Pilgrim Trust. Mrs Mary Hill Harris continued her invaluable work on the American archaeological collections and has been designated Honorary Assistant Curator in recognition of her services. Mr T. E. Hoare continued his greatly appreciated volunteer assistance with the anthropological collections and the archives. Details of other temporary employees and volunteers are given below.

Mr Harry Cambridge, Attendant in the Museum for many years, died in November 1992; we have missed his cheerful company.
Finance

The University's level of recurrent finance for the Museum was continued unchanged. The 1991-92 Report drew attention to the uncertainty concerning the future of Special Factor Funding which had been applied to the Museum for some years. It has been reassuring to learn that the Higher Education Funding Council for England envisages that Special Factor Funding (now re-designated as Non-Formula Funding) is likely to continue for the foreseeable future, although its application will be subject to review.

The Museum has again been successful in attracting external funding for particular projects. The Pilgrim Trust grant of £9600, noted in last year's Report, was received and enabled work to be undertaken on cataloguing the Museum's holdings of artefacts from the Northwest Coast of America. Work on transcribing the catalogue records was assisted by a University non-recurrent grant of £5000, by £1100 from the Area Museums Service and by £500 from Cambridgeshire County Council, as well as by the Crowther- Beynon Fund as noted below.

Cambridge City Council once again made a grant in support of the public aspects of the Museum's work, the amount given this year being £2000. Since the sum available is insufficient to finance a permanent extension of the Museum's opening hours, it was agreed that the grant should be spent on employing additional attendant staff to ensure that galleries need not be closed to the public during the holiday season, on sign-posting and on publicity to heighten the Museum's profile in Cambridge.

Through the good offices of the County Museums Officer, Cambridgeshire County Council underwrote the cost of opening the special exhibition *The Americas 1492* on two mornings a week during school terms to permit visits by school parties who were unable to come in the afternoons. The experiment was successful, but clearly depended heavily upon publicity. It is hoped that morning opening on this basis will continue in 1993-94.

At the end of the year under review, the Higher Education Funding Council agreed to fund a major three-year initiative on the development of *The Virtual Teaching Collection* co-ordinated by Dr Boast. This venture is a collaboration with the Whipple Museum in Cambridge and with four other universities. It is intended to develop the availability and accessibility of research
and teaching collections, such as those in our museum, through visual data-bases and other means of imaging.

**Exhibitions**

The special exhibition *The Americas 1492*, described in the 1991-92 Report, continued in the Andrews Gallery throughout the year. It has proved extremely popular, not least with the school parties, since it is directly relevant to sections of the National Curriculum. As noted above, Cambridgeshire County Council underwrote the cost of opening the exhibition to pre-booked school parties on two mornings per week. A number of special tours of the exhibition were arranged: for schoolteachers, for the Cambridge Society, and for private groups. Much of Mrs Harris's work has been related to the exhibition: answering questions (especially from teachers), showing individual visitors and groups around it, and giving talks on its subject.

Two temporary displays were set up during the year. That in the Maudslay Gallery on Tamu religious material from Nepal represented the first time that the Museum has benefited from active collaboration with an indigenous expert in all aspects of collection, documentation and display. A grant from the Crowther-Beynon fund permitted Yarjung Kromchhain Tamu (Gurung) and Judith Pettigrew to make a collection of Tamu shamanistic material from Nepal. In June, in conjunction with a private view of the display of Pachyu shamanistic material, the Museum hosted a special Tamu event which was attended by approximately 80 people. One of the central features of the evening was a 30-minute video, edited by Yarjung, which showed the ritual context of the material on exhibition. The event also raised funds for *Tamu Pye Lhu Sangh*, a Tamu community group whose self-appointed mandate is to preserve the culture and traditions of Tamu society. Each stage of the project, from the collection of objects in Nepal to the opening of the display in Cambridge, has been recorded on video and there are plans to edit the material to make an educational programme.

A temporary exhibition on the British Neolithic axe trade opened in the Clark Gallery in August. The display focuses on changing archaeological theories about the role of axes in marking
individual identity and fostering communal alliances in Late Neolithic Britain. Dr Mark Edmonds of the Department of Archaeology acted as academic consultant for the project, and special thanks are due to Samara Dawson who assisted with the design.

Work has begun on the next special exhibition. Changing Traditions, a cross-cultural and interdisciplinary exhibition coordinated by Anita Herle with input from all the curators.

**Maintenance and development**

*Buildings*

The Museum's operations during 1992-93 were significantly affected by building work. In the Bevan Store, it proved possible to undertake repairs to the windows which had been needed for many years: it is hoped that this work has finally resolved the recurring problem of water penetration, and thanks are due to the Estate Management and Building Service for the care with which the repairs were undertaken.

The new West Building of the McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research was erected during the year immediately adjacent to the south elevation of the Museum. This required repeated alteration to the Museum's fire escapes. It was necessary for temporary reinforcement to be inserted in all floors of the Museum whilst construction work was in progress, requiring that large numbers of specimens in the stores and workrooms be moved to temporary accommodation elsewhere in the building. Further difficulties occurred when scaffolding collapsed: it is not yet known whether the resultant vibration caused any damage to Museum specimens. Cracks have appeared in several parts of the Museum building adjacent to the construction site: an assurance has been received that all these will be made good once the new West Building is finished.

Some small calamities and continuing difficulties with the heating and with the roof over the Andrews Gallery underline how a building of our age requires continual care if it is to be efficient and safe for the collections.
Staff are concerned about an overall rise in relative humidity in the galleries and the stores. The environmental conditions are being closely monitored and it is hoped that the source of the problem will soon be identified.

Improvements were made to the Museum's security systems. Additional equipment was acquired to permit the regular monitoring of temperature and relative humidity throughout the display areas.

**Galleries and workrooms**

The Bevan workroom was cleaned and reorganised during the year. In future it will be used only for material which has been treated against infestation, and a separate room has been set aside on the ground floor of the Museum where untreated objects can be housed temporarily when first received.

This year, with the help of many dedicated volunteers, the Keyser Teaching Collection which supports the practical courses of the Department of Archaeology has been completely reorganised. It is now more closely tied to the syllabuses of individual practical courses. The objects have been repackaged, the storage reorganised and clearly labelled, and a complete catalogue has been published. Thanks are due to Sarah Balin, Katherine Bailey, Oliva Rodriguez and Mar Gabaldon for their hard work which ensured the successful completion of this project.

**Documentation and collections management**

The year has seen great progress in the development of the Museum's computerised cataloguing systems. A complete Information Systems Review was completed in December 1992, and approved by the Museum Committee in January 1993. On the basis of this report, Dr Boast and his curatorial colleagues have designed a phased programme of development, of which Phase 1 now more than half finished.

Design of the new computerised catalogue system is now completed, with the accompanying name-lists and conventions agreed. The Museum has also secured agreements from the University's Central Computing Service for the necessary systems,
software and memory for its projected growth over the next five years. Also, with the help of the Central Computing Services, systems have been developed for moving data from the existing MUSCAT database on the obsolete Phoenix mainframe to the new system, in Oracle on the UNIX network. The Museum has entered into an agreement with the Department of Archaeology and the McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research to develop a sitewide high-speed network which will greatly improve access to the Museum's cataloguing systems.

Meanwhile, transcription of the existing archaeology card catalogue continued, and reached nearer to completion during the year. Mrs Harris made further progress with re-cataloguing of American archaeology, and much of the Roman record was transferred from cards. In the year, over 12,000 entries went on to the computer catalogue. There is also much editing of records as the Museum's accessions over a century are for the first time put into a single consistent and indexed order. To take the month of October 1992 as an example, 3000 new records were added, and another 2000 records were edited.

Now that the bulk of archaeology is finished, effort is being more directed to the anthropology catalogue, in which fuller and handwritten record-cards make for slower work. In 1992 considerable progress was made with reducing the backlog of uncatalogued anthropological material, and 289 new accessions were dealt with. Assistance with cataloguing was provided by students taking the Museum Option of the M.Phil. in Social Anthropology and by Andrew Bolton, Tabitha Cotterill, Julia Cox and Jude Philp. In November there began the systematic transcription of anthropological catalogue records on to the computer data-base. The grant support noted above permitted the employment of Ms Alison McKeating to work on this project. To date over 8000 records have been transcribed, including all of those relating to North and South America, the Arctic, Australia and New Zealand.

A successful grant application to the Pilgrim Trust has enabled the Museum to employ Dr Gillian Crowther as a temporary Research Assistant to re-catalogue and photograph the entire collection of artefacts from the American Northwest Coast. Information relating to some 800 artefacts has been recorded, and a
400-page catalogue completed. Copies of the catalogue were presented to several museums on the Northwest Coast during the course of Ms Herle's recent fieldwork.

For those large portions of the catalogue which are fully computerised, it is now routine to produce individual indexed checklists when need arises as informal publications.

Mr Terry Hoare continued to keep the Museum archives in good order.

Meetings and events

In conjunction with the Faculty of Music, the Museum in October 1992 sponsored a workshop on Mongolian Music and Dance which featured performers from Ulaanbaatar.

On 27 October 1992 was held the First Geoffrey Bushnell Memorial Lecture in honour of the Museum's Curator from 1948 to 1970. The lecture, delivered by Professor Brian Fagan of the University of California at Santa Barbara, entitled The Americas in world prehistory, was attended by a large audience including the Vice-Chancellor and the Mayor of Cambridge. It was followed by a Reception at the Museum when guests had an opportunity to view the exhibition The Americas 1492.

Ms Herle, as Secretary to the Museum Ethnographers Group, held a meeting of the Group's Committee at the Museum on 17 February 1993.

The Annual General Meeting of the University Museums Group was held at the Museum in June 1993. It was addressed by Mr Hayden Phillips CB, Permanent Secretary of the Department of National Heritage.

Workshop and conservation laboratory

After relocation in what was the Garrod Laboratory, conservation work resumed in November 1992. Since then 38 objects have been treated, some requiring extensive work over a number of weeks.

These are some of the tasks carried out:

1. Objects loaned to the ARATJARA exhibition in Düsseldorf needed preparation before display, and special perspex mounts making, and special packing. This involved 85 man hours of
work. Mr Smith also went to Dusseldorf as carrier on their return journey, to pack and supervise transportation, unpack and check condition with Anita Herle on return.

2. A facsimile of a socketed bronze axe in resin was produced from a rubber mould for Armagh Museum.

3. Environmental monitoring of conditions within our showcases, hitherto not checked regularly, meant purchasing instruments and calibrating and installing them.

At the present time Mr Smith is conserving an Anglo-Saxon squareheaded brooch found at Hilton, and bringing back a Burmese lyre/harp to a stable and re-displayable condition.

Loans

Three Torres Strait masks (Z 9398, Z 9400, Z 9947) were loaned to the Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen, Dusseldorf, for the exhibition ARATJARA in April-July 1993.


A number of British bronze tools were loaned for scanning electron microscope study at Liverpool University.

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:

Mr J.W. Blythe: collection of religious items, Mongolia: £300.


Dr N. Hammond: excavations, Cuello, Belize: £600.

Mr K.C. MacDonald: excavations in Mali: £800.

Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology: conservation of Anglo-Saxon artefacts from Barrington: £3000.

Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology: special exhibition: £3000.

Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology: publication to accompany special exhibition: £1000.
Visitors

In February the curatorial staff had the pleasure of welcoming the Mayor and Mayoress of Cambridge to the Museum, and of showing them its range of activities. Useful discussions were held on the Museum's contribution to the cultural life of the City, and on the desirability of extending the hours during which the galleries are open to the public.

Two groups of performing artists from the Torres Straits visited the museum in July and August 1993 to view photographs and artefacts from the Haddon collection.

Research

As in previous years, substantial numbers of researchers visited the Museum from outside Cambridge in order to examine the collections, archives and other facilities. Their fields of study may be summarised as follows:

Anthropology
- European: 3
- African: 3
- American: 5
- Asian: 13
- Australian/Oceanian: 11

Archaeology
- British: 27
- European: 6
- African: 15
- American: 8
In addition, approximately 250 anthropological and 100 archaeological queries were answered by post.

**Public**

During the year under review, public visitors to the Museum totalled 15,697, a 6% increase over the figure recorded in the previous year. We fear the building works in the courtyard did not encourage visitors to come in from Downing Street.

97 pre-booked educational parties visited the Museum during the year.

The public specimen-identification service dealt with 42 enquiries.

**Acquisitions**

**Gifts**


Bequest


Purchases (mostly through the Crowther-Beynon Fund)

Gillian Crowther: Haida drum, button blanket and 12 prints from the Northwest Coast of Canada (1992.2-15).
Mario Guarino: utensils, clothing and religious material from Andalusia, Spain (1992.16-50).
Suzanna Rostas: clothing from Mexico and Guatemala.

Some of these 1992 accession numbers were allocated to items already in the museum, not previously catalogued.

Teaching

All members of the curatorial staff have continued to contribute to the Faculty's teaching of undergraduate and graduate students.
particularly in the fields of African archaeology, the anthropology of art, and museum-related studies at MPhil. level.

Dr Boast replaced Dr Chippindale as joint co-ordinator of Paper 6 in the Department of Archaeology's MPhil.

Ms Herle continued as course co-ordinator for MPhil. Option B in the Department of Social Anthropology, and also assumed responsibility for Prelim paper 3C, 'Anthropology, Communication and the Arts'.

During the year discussions were undertaken both at the Joint Museums Committee and with the Board of Continuing Education concerning the possibility of establishing a programme of interdisciplinary curatorial training.

**Staff activities**

*Dr Phillipson* holds the concurrent appointment of Reader in African Prehistory. He completed his period of office as Vice-Chairman of the County Museums Advisory Committee, but continued to serve as Chairman of the Cambridgeshire Curators Panel and, *ex officio*, as a Council member of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society. During the year he relinquished his duties as Treasurer of the Society of Antiquaries of London and of the Sutton Hoo Research Trust. As Hon. Secretary to the British Institute in Eastern Africa he was appointed Project Director for renewed excavations at Aksum in northern Ethiopia, and made two visits to that country in preparation for a major field season in November-December 1993. He visited the University Libre in Brussels to teach in the EEC-sponsored course for the International Certificate in African Archaeology. He continued to edit the annual *African Archaeological Review* for Cambridge University Press.

*Dr Chippindale* remained a Trustee of the Bead Study Trust. He was re-appointed as editor of *Antiquity* from January 1993, and as an associate of the Glen Black Laboratory, Indiana University. He was again Visiting Fellow at the Australian National University, Canberra, and its North Australia Research Unit, Darwin. He was appointed to the Society of American Archaeologists' ethics committee and became an advisory editor to *Archaeology*, the New York magazine. Informally, he was much concerned with the National Trust's plans for the future of Stonehenge.
Ms Herle continued in her role as secretary of the Museums Ethnographers Group. She presented several senior seminar papers: The Anthropological Collections at Cambridge', Royal Photographic Society, CUMAA 3 October 1992; 'Museums and First Peoples in Canada', Museum Ethnographers Group's Annual Conference, 1 April 1993; 'Anthropology, Museums and the Politics of Culture', Cambridge Anthropological Society, St Johns College 12 May 1993; 'Museums and Anthropology in Britain', The Museum of Anthropology, University of British Columbia, Canada September 16 1993. She attended a symposium 'Festival of the First Australians' at The South Bank Centre in July.

Dr Boast has been appointed as the archaeological representative on the Museum Documentation Association's Curatorial Discipline User Assurance Group. This group is the advisory panel for the new UK Museum Documentation Standards sponsored by the Museums and Galleries Commission. He has also been awarded a grant from English Heritage for the re-design of the University's Faunal Remains Unit Database, and is the computing consultant for another English Heritage field project in the Cambridgeshire Fens. He remains Secretary of the Cambridge Archaeological Committee.

Research

Members of the Museum's curatorial staff are engaged in archaeological and anthropological research in four continents.

Dr Phillipson directs excavations in Ethiopia on behalf of the British Institute in Eastern Africa, the project also receiving major funding contributions from the Society of Antiquaries, The McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, the British Academy and the British Museum.

Dr Chippindale spent much of his study leave on fieldwork in western Arnhem Land working further on his complementary research projects there, on the old painted art and on the direct radiocarbon dating of beeswax art, in which he collaborates with colleagues from the Australian Museum, Simon Fraser University, the Museum of the Northern Territory and the University of California. These received British funding from the Society of Antiquaries, the McDonald Fieldwork Fund and the British Academy, and through his colleagues.
from Australian and Canadian sources. The first results from this work are now in press.

Ms Herle continued her research on the relationship between museums and First Peoples in Canada, conducting interviews and doing fieldwork on the Northwest Coast. Archival work in preparation for the next special exhibition was undertaken at The Saskatchewan Indian Federated College.

Dr Boast is continuing research as the landscape consultant on the Als Prehistoric Settlement Project, Denmark, and has started a collaboration with the University of Santiago on the developing prehistoric landscape of Galicia, Spain.

Mrs Harris presented one paper and was joint author of another at 15th Congress of Caribbean Archaeology in San Juan, Puerto Rico. In November 1992, with a grant from Crowther Beynon Fund, she spent two weeks in Barbados studying a pottery find from Maxwell, which was then compared to material from Maxwell in the Museum collection.

Publications

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


C.R. Chippindale & David Gill. 1993. Comment on Christine Morris, paper on identifying the individual in Aegean prehistory, *Cambridge Archaeological journal*


Gillian Crowther with Anita Herle, Catalogue of the Northwest Coast Collection at Cambridge University Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology. [Published by the Museum in a small edition.]

