



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

MUSEUM OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY



*Nwabogho Ehi mask,  
Northern Ibo,  
Nigeria,  
photographed by  
Dr G. I. Jones, 1931.*

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1987-88

The Faculty Board of Archaeology and Anthropology  
presents to the University the 100th Annual Report of the  
Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology for the academical year  
1987-88.

## ADMINISTRATION

The Museum Committee met three times in the course of the year, under the Chairmanship of Dr S. Hugh-Jones and Dr M. Lawrence.

### STAFF

During 1987-88 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., F.M.A.

*Assistant Curator (palaeolithic archaeology):*

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

*Assistant Curator (anthropology):*

P. Sant-Cassia, B.A., Ph.D.

*Administrative Secretary (part-time):*

Mrs. P. Dearlove (until 30 June 1988)

*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. P.A. Came (until

22 May 1988)

*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: M.P. Payne, M.I.A.C.T.  
Photographer: G.J. Owen, L.B.I.P.P., A.R.P.S

It was with very great regret that the Board received the news of Miss M. D. Cra'ster's decision to retire from the post of Senior Assistant Curator with effect from 30 September 1988. Miss Cra'ster was appointed to the Museum staff in 1957, as the sole Assistant Curator. For over three decades she contributed greatly to the curatorial and teaching work of the Museum and Faculty, her role in planning and implementation of the Museum's redevelopment programme over the past twenty years being particularly notable. The Board extends its warmest good wishes to Miss Cra'ster for a long and happy retirement.

Mr C. Chippindale, Research Fellow of Girton College, was appointed Assistant Curator from 1 October 1988, with responsibility for the post-palaeolithic archaeological collections and for overseeing the Museum's documentation.

The resignations of Mrs P. Dearlove as part-time Administrative Secretary and of Mrs P. A. Came as part-time Attendant were received with regret.

As in previous years the Museum has had to rely extensively upon volunteers and temporary helpers, whose help is acknowledged by name in later sections of this report. The Board extends sincere thanks to these people, who have contributed greatly to the Museum's work. It is a matter for deep regret that funds are not currently available to enable the Museum to offer adequate payment for these services.

The Public Affairs Department of National Westminster Enterprises continued to make available the excellent services of Mr T. Hoare. Most of Mr Hoare's work for the Museum this year has been in the reprocessing of anthropological collections.

The Manpower Services Commission (Cambridge Community Programme Agency) continued its support for the computerisation of the Museum's documentation until 31 August 1988, as is described below.

*FINANCE*

Despite restraints on overall expenditure, the University was able to make a modest increase in its provision for the Museum's recurrent expenditure, but this increase was slightly below the current rate of inflation.

The General Board approved non-recurrent grants of £9,100 towards the cost of employing a full-time, in-house designer for the anthropological displays, of £5,255 for the employment of a documentation assistant, and of £1,404 for new storage racking.

Miss Cra'ster obtained a grant of £7,000 from the British Academy to support the detailed recording of the Museum's later British prehistoric collections, as detailed below.

The Area Museums Service for South Eastern England provided grants of £1,200 for archaeological documentation and £800 for design work on the anthropological displays.

The involvement of the Manpower Services Commission in the Museum's documentation project represented sponsorship of approximately £52,000 in 1987-8.

It should be noted that the Museum has raised over £132,000 from non-University sources during 1987-8. This should be compared with a University provision for recurrent funding amounting to £90,000 of which £63,000 was for academic staff stipends.

**EXHIBITIONS**

Two displays were set up in the Department of Social Anthropology by Miss F. Vincent, exhibiting material obtained through the Crowther-Beynon Fund: Peruvian Nahuatl artefacts collected by Mr A. Zarzar and artefacts from Cameroon collected by Mr D. Zeitlyn, both Ph.D. students in the Department.

Photographic displays on the Museum staircase were prepared by Dr S. Drucker-Brown on the installation of a Mamprusi chief and by Mr A. Zarzar on the "The Nahuatl Indians: from warriors to beggars". Another exhibition was mounted in the Social Anthropology Department of photographs of the Dogon in Mali by Mr L. Taylor. A limited edition of prints of these photographs has been put on sale in the Museum.



**REDEVELOPMENT***STORES AND RESEARCH COLLECTIONS*

Work on re-processing the anthropological collections was concentrated on the Indian, Bhutan and Sikkim material and has also started on reorganising the textile collections. Miss F. Vincent rendered invaluable assistance throughout the year, as did Miss S. Drucker- Brown, Ms A. Herle, Mrs S. Meaden and Miss S. Wilson.

New steel racking was installed in the Babington Store at Downing Street and the anthropological collections housed there were extensively re-organised.

Mrs M. H. Harris undertook extensive volunteer work on the American archaeological collections, partly in connection with her own research in Barbados which is supported by the British Academy and by the Smuts Memorial Fund.

Prior to her departure. Miss Cra'ster made major progress in recording the British later prehistoric collections. A British Academy grant to Miss Cra'ster permitted the employment of Mr N. Holman to work on this project, assisted by Miss L. Crispe. Mr B. Chesham, Mr J. Howarth and Ms H. McDonald also helped with archaeological recording and documentation. Additional assistance was

provided by Ms E. Cruwys, Miss E. Grimstone, Ms. E. Hamer, Ms R. Kent, Miss V. Mills, Mr G. Roberts and Ms A. Wolverson.

*MAUDSLAY AND ANDREWS GALLERIES*

Contractor's work on the structural refurbishment of the first- and second-floor galleries having been completed, Ms C. Ingham was employed from April as fulltime in-house designer for the new anthropological displays. New showcases were designed, and prototypes commissioned, to supplement the existing built-in ones, which will be refurbished. Particular attention is being paid to the lighting of the galleries, which will house environmentally sensitive material.

Dr Sant-Cassia has been assisted by Ms B. Bodenhorn, Ms G. Crowther, Dr L. Howe, Mr B. Smith and Miss F. Vincent in the selection of material for display.

*CENTENARY APPEAL*

The appeal was launched in May 1984: by September 1988 a total of £334,550.15 had been raised, £63,566 of it during the year 1987-88.

*DOCUMENTATION*

Transcription of the Museum catalogue entries onto the University mainframe computer continued throughout the year. Until 31 August it was funded by the Manpower Services Commission through the Cambridge Community Programme Agency. The following worked on the project during the year: Mr M. Ayres (supervisor), Messrs R. Alston and A. Brotherton, Ms S. Burgess, Messrs B. Chesham, A. Fick and J. Howarth, Ms J. de la Mer, Mr J. Moran, Ms R. Peacock and Mr L. Perez-Salar. Since M.S.C funding ceased, temporary employment of Mr Ayres has been financed through a non-recurrent grant and the project has continued, albeit at a greatly reduced level of activity.

The documentation project has now reached the stage where there is in operation for both Archaeology and Anthropology a computerised catalogue which contains some 25,000 entries. Operation of this catalogue is fully interactive and it is already greatly facilitating responses to external enquiries.

In addition to the transcription of earlier entries, all new accessions from January 1988 onwards are being catalogued directly into the computerised data-base.

The Museum is now faced with the need to obtain substantial financial support for the completion of the documentation project.

**CONSERVATION**

Mr Smith completed work in the Conservation Laboratory on 101 objects. Most attention was given to items from the re-processed anthropological collections: these ranged from a three-metre high slit-gong from the New Hebrides to Inuit bone carvings, and included wood, metal, pottery, bone, textiles and paper. A group of Amerindian artefacts was carefully checked prior to dispatch to Iowa on loan. Archaeological materials treated in the Laboratory included recent finds from Anglo-Saxon graves at Barrington, and leather and wall plaster from Ely Cathedral.

**LOANS**

Within Cambridge, exhibitions at other venues were supported by the loan of Egyptian antiquities to the Fitzwilliam Museum and of local Roman material to the Cambridge and County Folk Museum,

The following loans were approved to exhibitions outside Cambridge:

Governor Arthur's Proclamation to the Tasmanians to the Commonwealth Institute, London, for an exhibition marking the Australian bicentenary

An Egyptian bronze dagger to the National Museums, Merseyside

Archaeological material from Wendens Ambo, to Saffron Walden Museum

Ten Mesquakie artefacts to the University of Iowa Museum of Art

A Minoan dagger to the British Museum.

**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.

*(Existing collections)*

Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, £4,500 towards the cost of new anthropology displays

Miss M. D. Cra'ster, £1,500 for recording distribution and context of the Museum's British later prehistoric collections

Dr S. Hooper, £1,000 being expenses incurred in arranging publication of the journals of the Baron Anatole von Hügel, first Curator.

*(New Collections)*

Dr J. Oates, £800 for a final season's excavation of prehistoric levels at Tel Brak, Syria

Mr O. B. Sichone, £750 for investigation of rural economy under pressure in Zambia

Mr M. Guarino, £420 for research into political organisation in an Andalusian town

Mr J. Laidlaw, £500 for investigation of Jain Ritual objects in Rajasthan.

## VISITORS

### RESEARCH

Despite the necessity to restrict access to the anthropological collections the number of research visitors to the Museum from outside Cambridge was maintained. They were involved in the following areas of study:-

|                          |    |
|--------------------------|----|
| <i>Anthropology</i>      |    |
| African                  | 7  |
| American                 | 1  |
| Asian                    | 14 |
| Australasian/<br>Oceania | 5  |
|                          |    |
| Total                    | 27 |

### *Archaeology:*

|              |    |
|--------------|----|
| Palaeolithic | 18 |
| British      | 22 |
| European     | 9  |
| Asian        | 9  |
| African      | 11 |
| American     | 4  |
|              |    |
| Total        | 73 |
| Archives     | 11 |

*PUBLIC*

There were 14,194 public visitors to the Museum during the year, despite the fact that only the archaeology gallery was open and that public opening hours are restricted to 12.5 hours per week. The slight decrease over the previous year's total is entirely due to a 20% drop in attendances during the summer, visitors in the winter months being significantly more numerous than previously. This evening out of visitor-numbers over the year is welcomed and suggests that greater use is being made of the Museum by local residents as opposed to tourists.

Sixty-two pre-booked school parties visited the Museum during the year.

The public specimen-identification service dealt with 32 enquires.



**ACQUISITIONS**

A total of 475 new acquisitions were catalogued in the year under review. In addition, 1609 registrations resulted from work on older collections not previously recorded in detail.

The following list details acquisitions for the period October - December 1987

*GIFTS*

Executors of the late Professor G. E. Daniel - Beaker

replica and flint axe in modern handle (1987.1568-9)

Dr N. Hammond - Gourd containers from Belize (1987.1563-4)

Dr C. Humphrey - Mongolian cloth cap, wooden puzzle and copper coffee pot (1987.1560-2)

Dr A. W. Lawrence - Ground stone axe from Ghana (1987.1566) and Mende cloth from Sierra Leone (1987.1570)

Mrs P. Mennell - Pottery from Ecuador (1987.1567)

Dr J. Oates - Obsidian artefacts, Choga Mami, Iraq (1987.1567)

Dr G. Salt - Impression of Harrappan seals (1987.1572)

K. M. Tester, Esq. - Eighteenth century sherds etc. found whilst deepening the Museum's lift-shaft (1987.1571).

PURCHASE

Cypriot *kolokithi* gourd (1987.1559).

With the adoption of computerised cataloguing of new accessions, full schedules will in future be prepared on a calendar-year basis. A list of all 1988 accessions will thus be included in the 1988-9 report.

Major new acquisitions included an important collection of material pertaining to the manufacture of gun flints, from the estate of Mr S. de Lotbiniere of Brandon, formerly Director of outside Broadcasting at the B.B.C. The collection is a welcome addition to the Brandon specimens already in the Museum, but is of particular importance both because of the considerable number of comparative specimens from other manufacturing centres, and in view of the impeccable state of the associated documentation.

A very large collection of photographs taken during his fieldwork in Nigeria during the 1930s was deposited by Dr G. I. Jones, Hon. Keeper. Dr Jones is currently documenting this collection, which should prove invaluable for future researchers, and the Museum is reproducing as postcards a selection which depicts Nigerian masquerades.

The complement of the Williamson collection of artefacts from Tibet and Bhutan was also received as a bequest, following the death of Mrs M. D. Williamson, together with important films and photographs of Tibet in the 1930s.

**TEACHING**

All members of the curatorial staff have continued to play a full role in the Faculty's teaching of graduates and undergraduates. They have been particularly involved with teaching on Politics, Art and Society, with the M.Phil. courses on Museum Practice and Archaeology and on Social Anthropology and the Work of a Museum, and with the provision of practical classes for undergraduate Archaeology students.

**STAFF ACTIVITIES**

The Curator, Dr Phillipson, has continued to serve as Hon. Secretary of the British Institute in Eastern Africa and as Treasurer of the Society of Antiquaries of London and of the Sutton Hoo Research Trust. He was elected a Fellow of Gonville and Caius College. Within the University he served as Chairman of the Faculty Board of Archaeology and Anthropology and of the Joint Museums Committee. He represents the University on the Cambridgeshire Museums Advisory sub-Committee and on the Council of Management of the Cambridge and County Folk Museum, as well as serving on the Tourism Liaison Group of Cambridge City Council. He delivered the annual lecture of the British Institute in Eastern Africa at the British Academy: "A new view of southern Africa's first farmers", addressed a seminar on African Archaeology at Southampton University, and attended a conference on African agricultural systems at the Pitt Rivers Museum, Oxford. He continues to edit the *African Archaeological Review* for Cambridge University Press.

Miss Cra'ster, as Senior Assistant Curator, represented the University on the Lincoln Archaeology Trust, the Museum on the Cambridgeshire Archaeology Committee and the Museums Association on the Wisbech Museum Committee. She was also a member of the Nene Valley Research Committee and the West Stow Anglo-Saxon Village Trust. She edits the publications of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society and served on that society's Council.

Dr Carter continued with his usual teaching and examining duties. In January and February he was in Pakistan at the invitation of the British Archeological Mission to visit recently discovered palaeolithic sites. The major part of his time throughout the year has continued to be spent on the computerisation of the Museum catalogues.

Dr Sant-Cassia, in addition to his regular curatorial and teaching responsibilities, was mainly concerned with the development of new showcases and anthropological displays. On sabbatical leave in the Michaelmas term he conducted fieldwork in Malta on urban ritual songs (*ghana*) and lectured at the University of Malta on Mediterranean anthropology. He also made a video film (with Gregory Barrow) of a Maltese village *fešta* and its preparation, for teaching use in the Europe option for the Social Anthropology Preliminary examination. He conducted archival research in Greece on nineteenth-century matrimonial transfers, and in Cyprus on early twentieth-century politics. He also delivered papers on his research at the Universities of Ioannina (Greece) and Malta, and at the Victoria and Albert Museum.

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

- P.L. Carter, P. J. Mitchell and P. Vinnicombe, *Sehonghong: the Middle and Later Stone Age industrial sequence at a Lesotho rock-shelter*, Oxford: British Archaeological Reports International Series 406 (1988).
- J.Huxtable, J.A.J. Gowlett, G.N.Bailey, P.L. Carter and V. Papaconstantinou, "Thermoluminescence (TL) dates for the Early Mousterian of Asprochaliko Rockshelter, Greece", *Nature* (1988).
- D.W. Phillipson, Contributions on eastern and southern Africa for *Dictionnaire de la Prehistoire* (ed. A. Leroi-Gourhan). Paris: Presses Universitaires de France (1988).
- D.W. Phillipson, Contribution on the African Iron Age in *The Times Atlas of Archaeology* (ed.C.Scarre). London: Times Books (1988).
- D.W. Phillipson, Revised edition of *African Archaeology*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (1988).
- D.W. Phillipson, Japanese edition of *African Archaeology* Tokyo (1988) .
- P.Sant-Cassia (with P. Serracino Inglott), *Mediterranean Studies: Society, Culture and Philosophy in the Pre-Modern Mediterranean*. Malta: University Press.