

Annual Report on the Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, 1971-72

22 January 1973

The FACULTY BOARD OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY beg leave to present to the University their Annual Report on the Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology for the year 1 October 1971 to 30 September 1972.

Staff

Mr P. W. GATHERCOLE, Curator; Miss M. D. CRA'STER, Mr M. D. MCLEOD, Assistant Curators.

The most important event for the Museum during the year was the recommendation from the Faculty Board to the General Board, in January, that long-standing plans for a new building on another site in Cambridge should be dropped. Instead the General Board agreed that a feasibility study should be undertaken by the Estate Management Advisory Service to determine if the interior of the Museum could be substantially modified to house the collections in ways appropriate to contemporary needs.

This decision involved the curatorial staff in much planning activity, especially towards the end of the year, when the Feasibility Study got under way. The staff intend to reorganize the collections in such a way that, while the display section will be reduced in size, those specimens on display will be demonstrated more effectively. In addition, the large amounts of material at present in grossly overcrowded and ill-lit stores will be made accessible to visitors in research areas suitably equipped for the needs of modern anthropological and archaeological scholarship. It is anticipated that the results of the Feasibility Study will be available early in 1973.

Meanwhile, the curatorial and assistant staff had a busy but encouraging year. The Workshop was redecorated and partly re-equipped between January and April. This caused some temporary dislocation and the partial closure of the Keyser Hall for some weeks, but the final result was most satisfactory. The Board are grateful to the Director and staff of the Botany School for providing certain working facilities during this period.

The curatorial staff undertook their normal teaching duties, the major innovation being the replacement of the Ethnology practical course for Part I by a series of lectures on Primitive Art given by Mr McLeod and the Curator. Mr P. Smith, the senior technician, began an extensive casting programme of objects required for teaching by the Archaeology Department. He and Mr D. Stringer, junior technician, restored a number of fragile ethnological items, notably a group of early fly-whisks from the Society Islands. Mr L. P. Morley, Photographer and Chief Assistant, took 850 photographs, and made 875 coloured and 440 black-and-white slides.

The curatorial staff undertook numerous outside activities, of which a few should be mentioned. Miss Cra'ster was elected President of the South Midlands Museums Federation, and both she and the Curator were members of the main M 11 Committee. The Curator taught a course on archaeology at the second summer session of the University of Hawaii in July and August, and Mr McLeod spent two months of the Long Vacation in Ghana carrying out research on Asante royal regalia. In April he spent two weeks in Philadelphia, studying Ghanaian collections as a guest of the Heron Foundation. Over 120 enquiries were dealt with. A considerable amount of cataloguing work was done, including the establishment of a donors' index, but detailed accessioning was not brought up to date and the general level of museum documentation remains inadequate by modern standards. The decision of the General Board to allow the appointment of a second Assistant Curator in Archaeology was therefore particularly welcome.

Rescue archaeology

Miss Cra'ster and the Curator devoted much time to the establishment of an effective organization to cope with the many problems arising from the proposed construction of the M 11 and related roadworks. An M 11 (Northern Section) Committee was set up on a broad basis in December, and, with the willing co-operation of landowners and tenants, the proposed routes of the Cambridge Western and Northern By-Passes were subsequently surveyed for site evidence. Public interest was very great, and about 160 volunteers joined in this work, mostly at weekends. All

finds were washed and recorded in the Museum, the most interesting being put on temporary display. A special meeting, including a tea party, was held in April to discuss the results of the work. 120 of those who took part attended.

The Northern Section Committee subsequently assumed responsibility for rescue archaeology associated with the construction of the Newmarket By-Pass.

The resurgence of interest in local archaeology has led to the re-establishment of the Cambridge Archaeological Committee, under the chairmanship of Dr G.E. Daniel. This Committee has official representatives from both County and City planning offices, the University, and other interested bodies. It works closely with the Museum staff, represented by Miss Cra'ster, and is particularly concerned with the investigation of threatened sites in the City. It has also begun the detailed investigation of the full archaeological potential of both the City and the County. This work involves the use of documentation maintained for many years by the Museum and the Cambridge Antiquarian Society. A significant development has been the organization of a scheme for the regular communication of planning applications by both City and County, so that their archaeological significance can be assessed at the earliest possible stage. It has immediately become apparent that the proper functioning of this essential link between archaeology and planning development is too big a task to be maintained by the University archaeological personnel alone.

Collections

Work on the reorganization of certain collections continued steadily. Mr McLeod completed the checking of the N. W. Thomas Collection from Nigeria, and a special exhibition of part of this material was opened in June. This involved remodelling sections of the African display, but it was unfortunately necessary to screen off two bays in the Babington Hall in order to provide the necessary storage space. Similar measures were necessary in the Bevan Hall in order to obtain working space for detailed re-examination of the rich collections from the New Hebrides. This work is being undertaken by Mr K. Huffman, a Research Student in the Faculty. The curatorial staff were particularly grateful to Miss E. Morgan and Mr C. Anderson, students at the Universities of Hull and Leicester respectively, who intend to take up careers in Museums, for their voluntary assistance in reorganizing certain material in store. The Local Education Authority's scheme for short-term employment of school-leavers in their intended careers was extended for the first time to the Museum. Miss M. Brooks, of March Grammar School, spent a fortnight with Miss Cra'ster, cataloguing and reorganizing some of the archaeological stores. It proved a fruitful association for both parties. It is also gratifying to record that our own students, in both archaeology and social anthropology, have made increasing use of collections.

A considerable number of displays were refurbished, particularly those devoted to Polynesia, the Pacific North-West Coast, and the Amerindian Plains. A number of temporary exhibitions relating to Part I of the Tripos were mounted in the entrance area, the most notable being concerned with the work of Sir Cyril Fox on the archaeology of the Cambridge Region.

Visitors

The annual number of visitors continued to rise, totalling 11,548, compared with 9,316 in 1970-71. 157 organized parties came to the Museum, the greater number being groups of school children from Cambridgeshire. The Museum Committee is particularly grateful to Mr M. Dowdy, the County Museums' Officer, for the way in which he has encouraged schools to plan systematic visits in terms appropriate to their curricula. This increasing interest by schools was also reflected by the success of a meeting between local teachers and the curatorial staff. The meeting discussed various ways in which museum resources could be made available to schools, and was attended by 120 teachers.

Twenty-three scholars from overseas institutions examined various collections. Many members of the Museums Association visited the Museum on 12 July, during an excursion from the annual conference held at Norwich. The South Midlands Museums Federation held a one-day meeting here in April, its first in the University, on the theme of the different functions of local government and university museums.

Loans

The most important loan of the year was that of twelve of the Museum's finest Polynesian pieces, including five obtained during Captain Cook's voyages, to the Musée de l'Homme, Paris. These were chosen to form part of a special exhibition, *La Découverte de la Polynésie*, held between January and June. Fifteen African and twelve New Guinea items were placed on long-term loan in Longsands Comprehensive School Museum, and four Egyptian sculptures from the Green Collection in the Fitzwilliam Museum. A seal-matrix, pilgrim badge and stone jester's head were lent to the London Museum for its exhibition on *Chaucer's London*. Temporary loans were also made to the Letchworth Museum (Saxon belt tab), and to Dartington College of Arts (Oceanic, African, and Amerindian ethnological items).

Crowther-Beynon Fund

Grants amounting to £2,733 were made to the following: the Museum, for purchase of specimens; Dr W. Bray, for excavations in Colombia; Mr D. Browne, for site surveying in Cambridgeshire; Dr H.K. Cameron, for the maintenance of the Brass Rubbings collection; Dr J. Coles, for further excavations in Somerset; Mr R. Fletcher, for contemporary settlement-pattern studies in Ghana; Dr J. Goody, for the publication of a work on Bagre myth; Dr B. Hope-Taylor, for further excavations at Bamburgh; Dr C.M^cBumey, for further excavations in Jersey; Mr M.D. McLeod, for ethnographic fieldwork in Ghana; Professor J. M. Plumley, for excavations in Nubia; Mrs J. Stargardt, for excavations in Thailand.

Publications

- GATHERCOLE, P. (1971). "Patterns in Prehistory": an examination of the later thinking of V. Gordon Childe', *World Archaeology*, 3(2), pp. 225-32.
- GATHERCOLE, P. (1972). 'The study of settlement patterns in Polynesia', in Peter J. Ucko, Ruth Tringham, and G.W. Dimbleby (eds.), *Man, Settlement and Urbanism*, London, Duckworth, pp. 55-60.
- MCLEOD, M.D. (1972). 'Review article - A.S.A. 10', *Journal of the Anthropological Society, Oxford*, 3(2), pp. 95-100.

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| GLYN DANIEL, <i>Chairman</i> | J. GARLICK | GILBERT LEWIS |
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| ALAN BILSBOROUGH | JACK GOODY | M.D. MCLEOD |
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| JOHN COLES | E.S. HIGGS | M.W. YOUNG |
| M. FORTES | E.R. LEACH | |

APPENDIX ACCESSIONS 1971-2

- Addyman, Mr P. V.*: Saxo-Norman and medieval metal and bone objects, 1961 site, St Neots, Hunts. (12.174- 89); wooden and pottery objects, Saxo-Norman 1960 site, Little Paxton, Hunts. (72.190-1).
- Alexander, Dr A.*: Two Roman bronze fibulae, Arbury Road, Cambridge (71.55-6).
- Bailey, Mr A.*: Homingsea ware Roman potsherds, Eye Hall Farm, Homingsea, Cambs. (72.90).
- Barratt, Mr L.J.*: Medieval harness pendant, Ashwell, Herts. (72.88).
- Beveridge, Mr B.A.*: Roman potsherds, Chronicle Hills, Thriplow, Cambs. (72.297-301)
- Biddle, Mr M.*: Saxo-Norman metal fragments, Therfield, Herts. (72.173).
- Bishop, Mr R.*: Saxo-Norman potsherds, Queen's Road, Cambridge (71.60); Roman coffin-nails, coin and potsherds, King's Hedges, Arbury, Cambridge (71.97-100).
- Browne, Mr D. M.*: Hand-axes and flakes from Sebha North axe factory, Fezzan, Libya (72.76-9).
- Burkitt, Mr M.C.*: Lapp engraved deer antler (71.43).
- Butler, Mr M.J.*: Neolithic arrow head, Stapleford, Cambs. (72.87).
- Carter, Mr A.*: Medieval potsherds, Ely (71.54).

[Turn over

- Chitty, Miss M.*: Bronze brooch, Temi, Italy (71.41).
- Clark, Prof. J.G.D.*: Daimonic plaster head on deer cranium, Thailand (71.42); cast of Vinca figurine from Zagreb Museum (71.46); potsherds (Hassuna, Samarra and Uruk) from various sites in Iraq (71.64-7). *Cra'ster, Miss M.D.*: Chinese travelling tea set (71.39); stone quern, flint point and potsherds, Sirte, Libya (71.63).
- Davidson, Mr I.*: Mesolithic flint tools, cores, etc., Parpallo, Spain (72.92-3).
- Deakin, Mr A.*: Iron Age potsherds, Worts Causeway, Cambridge (71.68-9).
- Fern, Mr N.*: Flint point and knife, Gamlingay, Cambs. (71.50).
- Fitzgerald, Mr L.C.*: Cast of Acheulean hand-axe from St Ives, Hunts. (71.58).
- Gloucester, H.R.H. Prince William of*: Medieval tiles and potsherds from kiln sites, Lyveden, Northants. (72.20-4).
- Graham-Smitli, Executors of Prof. G. S.*: Large collection of Mesolithic and Neolithic flints from Guildford, Surrey (72.267, 29-30), Cavenham area, Suffolk (72.31-2, 50), Lakenheath, Suffolk (72.35-7), London (72.33-4, 54), Blackheath, Surrey (72.38), Methwold, Norfolk (72.49), York (72.55), Cambridgeshire (72.28, 46-8, 56-7), Aberdeenshire (72.40-5, 53, 58-75), Ireland (72.57), France (72.52).
- Greenfield, Mr E.*: Roman metal and stone objects and potsherds, 1958 site, Little Paxton, Hunts. (72.192-296).
- Hammond, Mr N.*: Collection of pottery, figurines, obsidian and stone tools and vessels, etc., excavated by Cambridge University Lubaantun Expedition, 1970, from Lubaantun and other Maya sites in British Honduras (71.108-17, 72.91, 138-71); five Neolithic flakes, Sussex (71.61); four upper Palaeolithic blades, Asprochaliko, Epirus, Greece (71.62).
- Hardy, Mrs D.P.*: Brass incense-holder in shape of mounted elephant, India (71.48).
- Harper, Mr H.*: Roman rotary quern, Gamlingay, Cambs. (71.51).
- Kenyon, Dr K.M.*: bronze ring and eleven scarabs. Tomb G.73, Jericho (71.47).
- King's College, The Provost and Fellows*: Medieval pottery (71.79).
- King's Lynn Museum*: Roman pottery, Runcton Holme, Norfolk (71.118-25).
- Leakey, Mrs M.*: Quartzite core, Olduvai Gorge, Kenya (72.85).
- Macmillan, Dr R.B.*: Neolithic pottery and flint artefacts, Gargano, S. Italy (71.86-92); Etruscan potsherds, Veii, Italy (71.93).
- McBurney, Dr C.B.M.*: Palaeolithic flint flakes, Bamham and Three Hills, Suffolk (21.69-70); cast of flint tool, Elvedon, Suffolk (71.71); Neolithic flint core and flakes, Lakenheath, Suffolk (71.72); Palaeolithic flint flakes, Bamfield Pit, Swanscombe, Kent (71.72-8).
- Newnham College, The Principal and Fellows*: Glass wine bottle c. 1800 (72.25).
- Oaks, Mrs M.N.*: de Laszlo crayon portrait of L.C.G. Clarke, 1906 (71.40).
- Powell, Mr E.A.*: Roman potsherds, Wixoe, Suffolk (71.95).
- Prehistoric Society*: Neolithic axe-factory rough-outs and waste, Mynydd Rhiw, Caernarvonshire (72.1-19). *Purchased, Cambridge Expedition to Guyana {1971}*: Collection of ethnological material, cassava squeezers, arrows, bows, gourds, baskets, fans, dishes, etc. Various sites in Guyana (72.94-137).
- Rackham, Mr O.*: Iron Age potsherds, Trumpington, Cambs. (72.84).
- Salisbury and S. Wilts. Museum* (by exchange): flint tools, jet and amber beads, bronze palstave, Burnt Fen, Burwell, and Histon, Cambs. (71.80-84).
- Seel, Mr S.R.*: Flint retouched flake, Hockwold, Norfolk (71.53).
- Smith, Mr D.*: Roman tiles and potsherds. Paddock St Farm, Soham (72.80-3).
- Stone, Mr D.*: Cast of Acheulean hand-axe from Chatteris, Cambs. (71.57).
- Tebbitt, Mr L.J.*: Neolithic flint axe, Coveney Fen, Cambs. (72.89).
- Tebbutt, Mr C.F.*: Carved ostrich egg, (?) Persia (71.44); pumice-stone rasp with silver cover, India (71.45); Neolithic pottery and flints, Little Paxton, Hunts. (71.85).
- Thackray, Mr D. W.R.*: Mesolithic tranchet axe, Cantelupe Farm, Haslingfield, Cambs. (72.39).
- Trump, Dr D.*: Potsherds and obsidian flakes, Sardinia (71.94).
- Watson, Mr IS.*: Saxon iron spear head from ditch of Devil's Dyke, Stetchworth, Cambs. (71.52).
- Weir, Miss C.*: Roman potsherds. Grange Farm, Swaffham Bulbeck, Cambs. (71.96).
- Wilkerson, Mr J.C.*: Iron Age potsherds, Aldwick, Barley, Herts. (71.101-7).
- Woodley, Mr*: Stoneware mineral-water bottle, Comberton, Cambs. (72.86).
- Young, Mr M.*: Medieval potsherds, Stretham, Cambs. (71.59).