

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

MUSEUM OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY



Part of the new Gallery of World Prehistory and Local Archaeology

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1983-84

The Faculty Board of Archaeology and Anthropology presents to the University the 96th Annual Report of the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology for the academical year 1983-84.



Part of the exhibition "The Proper Study of Mankind", Adeane Gallery,

Part of the exhibition "The Proper Study of Mankind".
Adeane Gallery, Fitzwilliam Museum.

ADMINISTRATION

The Board learned with sorrow of the death on 15 January 1984 of Miss Joan Liversidge, M.Litt., F.S.A., who had served with great distinction as Honorary Keeper of the Romano-British collections since 1951, and who had also on numerous occasions represented the Cambridge Antiquarian Society both on the Museum Committee and on the Faculty Board.

The Museum Committee met four times during the year, under the Chairmanship of Dr S. P. Hugh-Jones.

STAFF

During 1983-84 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): post vacant

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*)

Miss J. Liversidge, M.Litt., F.S.A. (*Romano-
British collections*)

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): Mrs 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.P., A.R.P.S

The continued vacancy , since January 1983, of the Assistant Curatorship for anthropology has caused the Board much concern. This is the only curatorial post in the Museum for a social anthropologist, a field in which our collections are of international importance and renown. At any time, an enforced vacancy in such a crucial post would be highly regrettable. In the present situation, when academic use of the collections is increasing and when plans are well advanced for the complete renewal of the anthropology displays, the University's continued refusal to fill this post presents almost insuperable difficulties if the Museum is adequately to care for and to present the collections with which it has been entrusted.

The appointment of Dr H. R. Waterson as a temporary curatorial assistant in anthropology from September 1983 to September 1984 was made possible by a non-recurrent grant. While the Board is most appreciative of Dr Waterson's work it wishes to emphasise that such temporary appointments cannot be regarded as an acceptable substitute for filling the vacant Assistant Curatorship noted above.

As in previous years the Museum has relied heavily on numerous part-time helpers, including students, some of whom have given unpaid assistance. Their names are recorded in later sections of this Report: to all of them the Board is deeply grateful.

FINANCE

The University's provision for the recurrent expenditure of the Museum was again increased in compensation for inflation. Non-recurrent grants were obtained for new archaeological displays in the Clarke Hall (£12,800) and for employment of a temporary curatorial assistant for six months (£4,240).

Further donations towards the cost of the new Gallery of World Prehistory and Local Archaeology in the Clarke Hall are noted below, as are contributions to the Museum's Centenary Appeal.

CENTENARY APPEAL

It was in May 1884 that the ancestor of the present Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology first opened its doors as a University institution. The foundation collection had been built up from 1840 onwards by the Cambridge Antiquarian Society. The Museum of General and Local Archaeology, as it was then known, shared premises in Little Saint Mary's Lane with the Museum of Classical Archaeology.

To mark the centenary the University has launched an appeal for funds which will enable the Museum to complete its current reorganisation programme to a higher and more fitting standard than would otherwise be possible. A total of £400,000 is sought. The appeal has two main aims:-

1. To complete the renewal of the display galleries at an estimated cost of £250,000.

It is proposed to complete the Museum's reorganisation by modernising the two upper display galleries, creating an anthropology gallery of some 300 square metres on the first floor and facilities for the presentation of varied more temporary exhibitions on the second floor. The project involves total structural refurbishment and redecoration, installation of controlled heating and lighting systems and thorough insulation to ensure that correct environmental conditions are maintained. Filters will be installed in the central skylight. Many of the fine mahogany display cases on the first floor will be retained and refurbished: new cases will be manufactured in a style sympathetic to that of the old ones. It is hoped that a passenger lift may be installed to permit access by the disabled.

2. To endow a graduated traineeship in the Museum, which will require a capital fund of £150,000.

The Museum has, over the years, launched many anthropologists and archaeologists on distinguished Museum careers. The University has the facilities to provide excellent training and research opportunities on museological aspects of archaeology and anthropology,

but lacks finance for the support of people undertaking such work. To mark the Museum's centenary the University wishes to endow a graduate traineeship in the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, to be held by each appointee for a maximum period of three years. Holders of this traineeship will bring professional experience to the study and interpretation of the Museum's collections, and acquire a firm foundation for a career in Museum work.

By October 1984 the appeal had raised a total of £150,000.

EXHIBITIONS

The ground floor of the Museum remained closed until 1 May when the new Gallery of World Prehistory and Local Archaeology was officially opened by His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales. Further details of the new gallery are given below.

A major special exhibition The Proper Study of Mankind: great anthropological collections in Cambridge was mounted in the Adeane Gallery of the Fitzwilliam Museum by kind permission of the Director and the Fitzwilliam Museum Syndicate. The exhibition was opened on 12 March by Lord Montagu of Beaulieu, President of the Museums Association, and remained on view until 6 May. The Prince of Wales paid a private visit to the exhibition on 1 May. After closing at the Fitzwilliam Museum the exhibition was transferred to the Sainsbury Centre for the Visual Arts at the University of East Anglia, Norwich, where it was on display from 2 July until 16 September.

Preparation and mounting of the exhibition was made possible by a generous grant from the Robert and Lisa Sainsbury Art Trust. Dr D. A. Swallow supervised its preparation, ably assisted by Dr V. Ebin. The exhibition presented material from some of the Museum's most important anthropological collections from Oceania (where prominence was given to Fiji); central, south and south-east Asia; North America; and west, eastern and southern Africa, set in the historical context of the growth of the Museum and of Cambridge anthropology. An illustrated handbook to the Museum's anthropological collections was published to accompany the exhibition.

It has been provisionally planned to arrange showings of the exhibition at selected venues in the United States of America. This operation had been envisaged as a major fundraising exercise in support of the Museum's centenary appeal. However, due to the continued enforced vacancy of the post of Assistant Curator for Anthropology, the exercise has had to be postponed indefinitely.

A photographic display was mounted on the Museum staircase by Mr P. Lane on Dogon cloth manufacture.

REDEVELOPMENT

STORES

The Museum's external store building was re-roofed during the year and improved insulation installed. It is anticipated that these measures will greatly reduce the temperature and humidity fluctuations which had previously caused concern.

A notable achievement during the year was the effective completion of re-processing the palaeolithic collections, in which task Dr Carter was ably assisted by Miss C. White.

Dr Waterson made further progress in checking and rehousing anthropological material in the new stores at Downing Street. Among the material thus processed was the extensive Starr collection of Mexican anthropological items.

Members of the Bead Study Trust completed their reexamination and sorting of the Beck collection of beads and amulets. It is hoped that an illustrated hand-list to this exceptionally important collection may be published in the near future: Dr Julian Henderson was employed by the Trust for three months to work on this project. Thanks are due to the Bead Study Trust for their efforts, over several years, to increase the utility and availability of the Beck collection.

CLARKE HALL

The major achievement of the year was the completion of the new Gallery of World Prehistory and Local Archaeology on the ground floor of the Museum. The length of time required for fund-raising necessitated the showcase construction and installation of the displays being carried out to an extremely tight schedule, and tribute should be paid to all concerned with their satisfactory completion.

The total cost of the new gallery was £138,400 of which 40% was provided by the University. For the remainder of the funds the Board is deeply grateful to the following donors:-

Wyman Abbott Bequest
American Friends of Cambridge University
Amey Roadstone Corporation
Area Museums Service for South Eastern England
Barclays Bank PLC
Cambridge City Council (Lottery)
Cambridgeshire County Council
Clare College
Corpus Christi College
Miss M. D. Cra'ster
Crowther-Beynon Fund
Emmanuel College
Evans Fund
Miss C. Fell
Fitzwilliam College
Mrs M. H. Harris
H. Heading, Esq.
Lloyds Bank PLC
Luch Cavendish College
J. H. Matternes, Esq.
Marks & Spencer PLC
D. Mazonowicz, Esq.
Midland Bank PLC
Museums and Galleries Commission
National Westminster Bank PLC
New Hall Newnham College Pilgrim
Trust
Mrs J. Rae (in memory of the late Miss J. Liversidge)
St Edmund's House St John's College
South Cambridgeshire District Council
Survival Anglia Limited Trinity
College Trinity Hall

The gallery attempts to present, within an area of some 300 square metres, a survey of world prehistory from the emergence of man to the rise of literate civilisation, as well as to present local archaeological material in more detail, with the inclusion of more recent periods. Although primarily aimed at an undergraduate audience, major efforts have been made to produce exhibits which are also meaningful to the general public and to schools: visitor comments indicate that these efforts have been largely successful.

Mr Richard Daynes, F.S.I.A., acted as Consultant Designer for the new displays. Much able assistance was provided by Miss J. Defrates, Mr J. Laidlaw, Ms M. Lees, Ms A. Lovelace, Ms C. Malone, Mr N. Merriman, Dr C. Scarre and Ms F. Weatherhead. Staff and graduate students of the Department of Archaeology provided valued information and advice. Loan of photographs by many colleagues is also gratefully acknowledged. Particular tribute is due to Mrs M. H. Harris for her work on the American section of the gallery.

As noted above, the new Gallery was opened on 1 May 1984 by His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales, to mark the Museum's centenary as a University institution. His Royal Highness arrived by helicopter at Downing College, where he was met by the Lord Lieutenant for Cambridgeshire, the Vice-Chancellor, the President of Downing College and the Curator. The party proceeded on foot to the Fitzwilliam Museum where His Royal Highness viewed the Museum's exhibition The Proper Study of Mankind. After travelling to Downing Street by car, the Prince toured the new gallery informally and was able to meet the members of the Museum staff and others who had helped with its creation. A ceremony was then held on the first floor of the Museum, attended by the Vice-Chancellor and some 300 invited guests, when His Royal Highness declared the new gallery open. Speeches were also made by the Curator, the President of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society (Mr J. G. Pollard) and the Chairman of the Faculty Board (Professor J. M. Coles) .

Two illustrated handbooks. World Prehistory and The Cambridge Region and British Archaeology were published to accompany the new gallery, with the aid of a grant from the Cambridgeshire Museums Advisory Committee.

CONSERVATION

Mr Smith treated 162 specimens in the Conservation Laboratory during the year. Of these, over half were items cleaned and/or consolidated for inclusion in The Proper Study of Mankind exhibition (33) or in the new archaeology gallery (40). A major task was the repair and preparation for display of a section of mosaic pavement and a stone column from the Exning Roman villa. Extensive repairs and consolidation were also done on models from the Starr collection on Mexican anthropology.

Through the good offices of Dr D. Scott, several items from the Museum's collections received conservation treatment at the Institute of Archaeology in London University. Work on a Torres Strait tortoise-shell mask, a Romano-British bronze figurine and an Iron Age sword scabbard was completed and other specimens loaned for treatment.

VISITORS

Re-development work necessitated some reduction work in services to visitors. The ground-floor gallery remained closed until May and access to the archaeological study collections was severely curtailed.

RESEARCH

Despite the disruption caused by preparation of new displays the number of researchers from outside Cambridge making use of the research collections was only slightly smaller than in previous years. The increased use made of the anthropological collections was particularly noteworthy and makes continued uncertainty over staffing in this field all the more worrying and regrettable. The corresponding decrease in consultation of the archaeological collections may be attributed to unavailability of staff and collections during work on the Clarke Hall.

Visiting researchers' fields of study may be summarised as follows:-

Anthropology	
General	8
British	1
African	6
American	11
Asian	10
Australian/ Oceanian	15
	<hr/>
Total	51

Archaeology	
Palaeolithic And General	6
British	22
European	4
Asian	4
African	7
American	6
	<hr/>
Total	49

Historical	2
Museum archives	4
Museology	4

The origin of visiting researchers is shown below:-

	British Isles	Europe	Africa	Asia	Australasia/ Oceania	America
Universities	24	2	1	1	2	10
Museums	15	3	1	1	2	8
Research units etc.	7	2	-	2	2	-
Other	21	2	-	-	-	3
Total	67	9	2	5	6	21

The specimens-identification service dealt with 47 enquiries.

EDUCATIONAL

In an attempt to encourage use of the new archaeology gallery by organised school parties, two meetings for teachers were organised in the Clarke Hall through the good offices of Mr C. Beresford of Cambridgeshire County Council Education Department. It is gratifying to note a substantial increase in group visits, a total of 63 being welcomed during the year. Several local societies also brought their members to the Museum and it is gratifying to note the renewed activity of the Young Archaeologists Club.

PUBLIC

A total of 14,729 members of the public visited the Museum during the year. Attendances during the first seven months, when partial closure was necessitated by work on the Clarke Hall, were low; but there was a substantial increase during the period May - September. The scale of public use of the Museum, now that the new Archaeological Gallery is completed, is gratifying. It is regretted that the public opening hours cannot be extended without the employment of additional attendant staff.

ACQUISITIONS

There were 137 new acquisitions registered in 1983-84, together with 30 deposits. A further 1465 registrations resulted from work on collections not previously accessioned in detail.

GIFTS

The following gifts to the Museum collections are acknowledged with gratitude:-

Anonymous - collection of Mesopotamian seals (1984.6-11)

Mrs D. M. Baer - Ashanti beads given to Dr A. C. Haddon

(the donor's grandfather) for his daughter Mary (1984.1) Mrs J. A. Bett - Burmese skirt (1984.238)

Blue Circle Industries PLC - Roman pottery vessels from Norman Works, Cherry•Hinton, Cambridge (1984.243-8) Cambridgeshire County Council - Roman oculist's stamp from excavations at Castle Hill, Cambridge (1984.3)

A. Clackson, Esq. - Libyan milk vessel (1984.239)

Miss G. Corsellis - West African carving of man astride leopard (1983.210)

Miss M. D. Cra'ster - Chinese fish-trap (1984.12)

Fitzwilliam Museum - Cast of Cycladic figurine (1984.2)

Sir Ronald Garvey - Fijian tapa cloths (1984.240-1)

Miss P. Guillebaud - Southern Sudanese pottery (1984.236-7) Miss R. Guillebaud - Rwanda milk vessel and hair ornament (1984.233-5)

Dr N. Hammond - Belize pottery and obsidian discs, sample of cacao beans (1984.13-5)

Mrs C. K. Marriott - Roman pottery beakers from Gog Magog Hills, Cambridge (1984.249-50)

E. Morrell, Esq. - Late Saxon/Viking silver strap-end from Soham, Cambs. (1984.4) estate of Professor J. Robinson - Early Classic Mexican figurine (1983.211)

Dr S. Smith - Burmese drum and Yugoslav pipe (1984.46-7)

C. Swithinbank, Esq. - Burmese clothing (1984.48-71)

Miss B. Wallis - Costume and textiles from Burma and Egypt
(1984.72-80)

M. Young, Esq. - Roman shale disc, Kimmeridge Bay, Dorset
(1984.5)

The following gifts were made in recognition of grants
from the Crowther-Beynon Fund:-

M. Banks, Esq. - Indian textiles and clothing (1984.81-98)

P. Lane, Esq. - Dogon (Mali) clothing, textiles and related
items (1984.16-45)

Mrs A. Srinivasan - Indian musical instruments (1983.212-9)

PURCHASES

The recently created Acquisition of Specimens Fund
enabled the following items to be purchased for the
collections:-

Bronze hoard, c 1000 BC, Litlington, Cambridgeshire
(1983.220) Plan of Cambridge by D. Loggan, 1688
(1984.251)

DEPOSITS

The specimens listed below were received on long-term
loan from their owners:-

Fitzwilliam Museum - European prehistoric metalwork, mostly
from the Swiss lake villages, ex Wellcome
Trustees (1984.D.1-27)
- Minoan pottery vessels, Palaikastro
(1984.D.28-9)
- Head of Cycladic marble figurine, Melos
(1984.D.30)

LOANS

As noted above, the Museum's centenary exhibition The Proper Study of Mankind was loaned to the Sainsbury Centre for the Visual Arts at the University of East Anglia, Norwich, where it was displayed from July to September 1984.

Four bronze crucifix figures were loaned to the Arts Council of Great Britain for inclusion in the English Romanesque Art exhibition at the Hayward Gallery, London, and specimens of Woodlands, Amerindian material to the Art Gallery of Ontario for that province's bicentenary exhibition.

Approval was given for the loan of local archaeological material for display at Royston Museum for three years.

CROWTHER-BEYNON FUND

The following grants were approved, for payment in August 1984, 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 A. Lovelace, £1,000 for cataloguing the Bateson collection from Papua New Guinea

MAJOR GRANTS (new collections)

Mr C. Zarzar, £1,000 for anthropological fieldwork
in Amazonia

Ms C. Malone and Mr S. Stoddart, £1,000 for Bronze Age excavations in Italy

Dr J. Oates, £700 for excavation at Tel Brak, Syria

MINOR GRANTS

Dr N. Hammond, £300 for excavations in Belize

Mr M. Patton, £100 for archaeological survey in Jersey

TEACHING

All members of the curatorial staff contributed to the teaching of the Faculty and its constituent departments. The approval of the General Board was approved during the year for the establishment of a one-year M.Phil. on Museum Practice and Archaeology, and this is warmly welcomed. It is hoped that, now that the renovation of the Museum's displays is well under way, the value of the Museum will be substantially enhanced.

PUBLICATIONS

As noted above, three illustrated handbooks to the Museum and its collections were published during the year:-
The Proper Study of Mankind by V. Ebin and D. A. Swallow
World Prehistory by L. Phillipson The Cambridge
Region and British Archaeology by M. D. Cra'ster
The Torres Straits Collections of A. C. Haddon by
D. Moore was published by British Museum Publication Ltd.