

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE
MUSEUM OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY



A recent gift: Ethiopian painting on linen, showing Menelik, son of the Queen of Sheba and King Solomon, playing games.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1985-86

The Faculty Board of Archaeology and Anthropology presents to the University the 98th Annual Report of the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology for the academical year 1985-86.

ADMINISTRATION

The Museum Committee met thrice during the year, under the Chairmanship of Professor A. C. Renfrew.

STAFF

During 1985-86 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):
P. Sant-Cassia, B.A., Ph.D.
Attendant: B. Lewis
Attendants (part-time): H. G. Cambridge, B.E.M.
Mrs P. A. Came

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

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

As usual, the work of the Museum has been greatly facilitated by the assistance of a large number of volunteer and other temporary helpers, whose names are recorded in later sections of this report. The Board is greatly indebted to these people, to whose hard work the progress of the current re-development programme is largely due.

Mr T. Hoare, working under the auspices of National Westminster Enterprises, Public Affairs Department, has provided invaluable help in the Museum.

Additional assistance by employees of the Manpower Services Commission (Cambridge Community Programme Agency) has supported the computerisation of the Museum's documentation, as noted below; and a Y.T.S. trainee has given invaluable assistance in the Workshop.

FINANCE

Increase to the University's provision for the recurrent funding of the Museum was limited to the equivalent of the inflation rate.

A non-recurrent grant of £13,570 was approved by the General Board to cover the cost of re-processing collections, including those housed in the Maudslay and Andrews galleries, together with the provision of storage boxes and racking.

As noted below, further donations to the Museum's Centenary Appeal were gratefully received.

A quantity of computer equipment was provided by the Manpower Services Commission for use in connection with the Documentation project.

REDEVELOPMENT

STORES AND RESEARCH COLLECTIONS

Much of the Museum's resources during the year under review has been devoted to the re-ordering of our collections. The impending refurbishment of the Maudslay and Andrews Galleries, and the vacating last year of the Old Oppenheimer Building at High Cross, have both necessitated major reorganisation of storage space and exacerbated the already severe problems of congestion. Additional racking was installed in the Keyser and Babington Stores, but more is urgently needed, especially at the external store.

Major reprocessing of anthropological material, notably from Asia, the Americas and the Arctic (including Greenland), was carried on throughout the year. Numerous items have been checked, inventoried and boxed: many records relating to the Arctic material have been computerised. In this complex task Dr Sant-Cassia was ably assisted by Mr T. Cadbury, Ms A. Lelenthal, Ms A. Lovelace, Ms R. Picardy, Mr T. Ponting and Miss F. Vincent.

Extensive work on the American archaeological collections was undertaken by Mrs M. H. Harris and also by Miss S. Horrell. As in previous years, Mrs Harris also assisted with the research documentation of this material. Miss Horrell completed the classification and cataloguing of an extensive collection of artefacts excavated at Kechipaun, New Mexico.

Miss Cra'ster devoted much time to the checking and classification of Roman, Anglo-Saxon and other archaeological material, with the assistance of Miss M. Davies and Messrs F. Allard, T. Cadbury, M. King and J. Skinner. Mr A. Dodson began work on the ancient Egyptian collection under the supervision of Miss Cra'ster and Mr B. Kemp.

MAUDSLAY AND ANDREWS GALLERIES

Clearance of the galleries on the first and second floors of the Museum was largely completed during the year. As noted above, this involved the re-housing not only of material from

the old displays, but also of major research collections that had been stored in these galleries.

Approval was given by the General Board for the University's Estate Management and Building Service to prepare detailed plans for the refurbishment of these two galleries, with a view to contractors arriving on site by the start of 1987. Outline plans have now been approved by the Minor Works Committee and tender documents are being prepared.

CENTENARY APPEAL

The Appeal was launched in May 1984 with a view to raising £400,000 for the refurbishment of the Maudslay and Andrews Galleries and the endowment of a graduate traineeship. By September 1986 a total of £229,794 was in hand. This includes a generous benefaction of £30,000 given by Mrs M. D. Williamson for the installation of a passenger lift so that handicapped and disabled persons may have access to the Museum's upper galleries.

DOCUMENTATION

It is gratifying that significant progress has now been made with computerising the Museum's catalogue and documentation. Although this project has been part of the Museum's long-term development plan for over a decade, it was only in April 1986 that finance was obtained, in the form of a substantial grant from the Manpower Services Commission. However, it must be emphasised that there is no guarantee that this support will be forthcoming in future years, and it may thus be necessary for the Museum to seek provision for significant expenditure in this area over the next few years, in order to complete the transcription of the catalogue.

Employees of the Cambridge Community Programme Agency, sponsored by the Manpower Services Commission who have worked on the project are: Mr J. Billings (supervisor), Ms A. Constantine, Mr K. Jackson, Ms J. Morley and Mr K.

Wigg. The Agency has also provided the necessary hardware: the software used is available to the Museum free of charge as it is in place on the University main frame computer.

To date some 3,000 records have been entered; preliminary retrieval, sorting and indexing programmes have been written. This project is supervised by Dr Carter, and has taken up a considerable amount of his time this year. All members of the curatorial staff will become increasingly involved as the project develops.

WILLIAMSON BEQUEST

With great generosity, Mrs Margaret D. Williamson has given the University the sum of £20,000 to form a fund in memory of her late husband, Frederick Williamson (1891-1935) of Emmanuel College. The interest from the Frederick Williamson Memorial Fund is to be used for furthering research relating to the peoples of Tibet, Bhutan, Sikkim and neighbouring Himalayan areas and for the development of the Williamson collection of artefacts from those regions currently deposited in the Museum. The Curator has been designated Secretary *ex officio* of the Fund's Managers.

As noted above, Mrs Williamson has also given the Museum £30,000 for the installation of a passenger lift.

CONSERVATION

The majority of the 156 items which Mr Smith received into the Conservation Laboratory were of Asian anthropological origin. Reprocessing of these collections revealed a wide range of material in need of conservation treatment, including a paper-on-cane spirit house and a cast iron bell weighing over 25 kg. Storage of this material necessitated the manufacture of a large number of special boxes and other containers, in addition to the Museum's standard modular boxes. Mr Stephen Ison, employed under a University Youth Training Scheme, rendered considerable assistance in box-making.

LOANS

Loans of the following items were approved during the year for exhibition outside Cambridge:-

Items from the Somerset Levels and from Star Carr, to the British Museum, London, for inclusion in the *Archaeology in Britain* exhibition

Nine items collected on the voyage of Captain George Vancouver, to the Vancouver Museum, Canada

Caribbean archaeological material - to Leicestershire Museums.

EXHIBITIONS

With the closure of the Maudslay and Andrews galleries for redevelopment, exhibition work was restricted to the mounting of photographic displays on the Museum staircase. The exhibitions, designed this year to complement teaching interests in the Department of Social Anthropology, were each accompanied by a leaflet detailing the theoretical and ethnographic background to the photographs. The following such exhibitions were mounted:-

"A Pattern for Life: Jains in Leicester and India" by
Dr M. Banks

"The Naga photographs of Christoph von Furer-Haimendorf: a selection" by the Rivers Video Project "The Skins of Mamprugu" by Dr S. Drucker-Brown The first of these exhibitions was accompanied by gallery showings of the film "The Jains, a religious community of India" by Drs M. Banks, C. Humphrey and Mr J. Laidlaw.

A well-attended public illustrated lecture, "The arts of the North West Coast Indians" was given by Dr P. McNair, Curator of the Museum of British Columbia.

CROWTHER-BEYNON FUND

The following grants were approved for payment in August 1986 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, £5,500 for preparation of new anthropology displays
Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, £700 for reconnaissance by Dr Carter for possible Torres Strait project
Mr J. Moss-Eccardt, £1,000 for completion of Archives Index
Dr C. A. Pegg, £420 for making a video of the Picken collection of musical instruments in the Museum

MAJOR GRANTS (new collections)

Dr J. Oates, £1,000 for excavation at Tel Brak, Syria
Dr N. Hammond, £1,000 for the Nohmul excavation in Belize
Dr C. Poppi, £1,500 for anthropological fieldwork in Ghana
Ms M. Unnithan, £1,250 for anthropological fieldwork in Rajasthan

MINOR GRANTS

Dr P. Callow, £250 for final documentation of La Cotte St Brelade, Jersey material
Miss A. Lovelace, £300 for completion of catalogue of the Bateson New Guinea collections

Approval was received for the payment of future grants in March rather than in August, to facilitate Long Vacation work. Steps are also being taken to publicise the Fund more widely.

VISITORS

There has been this year a slight reduction in the number of visitors to the Museum, which may be attributed to the fact that the Maudslay and Andrews Galleries have been closed and substantial parts of the anthropological collections inaccessible.

RESEARCH

Research visitors from outside Cambridge worked in the following areas: -

Anthropology:

African	2	
American	4	
Asian	12	
Australasian/ Oceania	3	
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Total	21	

Archaeology:

Palaeolithic	23	
British	18	
European	12	
Asian	5	
African	8	
American	15	
		<hr/>
Total	81	

Archives	4
Museology	9

The origin of visiting researches is shown below: -

	British			Australasia/		
	Isles	Europe	Africa	Asia	Oceania	America
Universities	26	3	4	9	1	11
Museums	15	3	2	4	3	10
Research						
units etc.	11	-	-	-	-	3
Other	8				-	-
Total	60	6	7	14	4	24

EDUCATIONAL

Pre-booked educational parties totalled 70. Reduced funding for outside visits by schools has clearly contributed to the reduction from last year's total, as has the closure of the anthropological displays which are particularly popular with school parties.

Mr T. Rock has been seconded by the Cambridgeshire Education Department to Homerton College for one term in order to prepare educational material for use by school parties visiting the Clarke Hall archaeology gallery.

Increased use of the archaeology displays has been made by the Department of Extra-Mural Studies. Parties of students have also been welcomed from the Institute of Archaeology, London and from the Department of Museum Studies, Leicester.

It was a pleasure to receive a visit from members of the Cambridge Society and to host the Christmas Party of the Friends of the Fitzwilliam Museum.

PUBLIC

Public attendances during the year amounted to 17,574. It is stressed that public opening hours continue to be restricted to 12[^] hours per week. The public specimen-identification service dealt with 34 enquiries.

ACQUISITIONS

New acquisitions registered in 1985-6 totalled 775. There were also 2836 registrations which resulted from work on collections acquired in earlier years but not then accessioned in detail.

GIFTS

The following gifts to the Museum were received with gratitude: -

- Government of Belize - Maya pottery bowl and jade bead, in recognition of a grant to Dr N. Hammond from the Crowther-Beynon Fund (1986.89-90)
- Professor J.G.D. Clark - Roman coins from Car Dyke, Cambs. (1985.94-6)
- English Heritage - Romano-British pottery and other material from F. K. Annable's 1953 excavations at Great Chesterford, Essex (1985.100-669, 671-756)
- E. Greenfield, Esq. - Pottery and other artefacts excavated in 1960 at Fen Drayton, Cambs. (1986.13-72)
- J. Hurst, Esq. - Central American stone artefacts (1985.99)
- Dr G. I. Jones - Nigerian staff, bangle and dress (1986.1,2,88) Mrs B. Lehmann - Artefacts from the Kalahari and Uganda (1986.2-12)
- Bequest of Miss J. Liversidge - Reproduction Gallo-Roman vase (1985.92)
- Miss H. McBurney - Pottery and other post-medieval items from Shetland (1985.98)
- Mrs J. Pullinger - Roman metalwork from the Cambridge area (1985.73-90)
- Bequest of Mrs M. M. Reynolds - North European bone knife-handle (1985.97)
- Professor C. T. Shaw - Seventeenth-century sherds from Wimblington, Cambs. (1985.91)
- Dr A. Zarzar - Nahwa artefacts, Peruvian Amazonia, obtained through a grant from the Crowther-Beynon Fund (1986.73-87)

PURCHASES

A Yoruba food-bowl (1985.670)

Guatemala textiles: two huipiles (woman's garment)
and a matching head-dress (1986.91-3)

A duplicate set of the old accessions registers has been obtained and is used for day-to-day reference. The original volumes are now undergoing conservation.

TEACHING

All members of the curatorial staff contributed to the teaching programmes of the Faculty at both graduate and undergraduate levels. They were particularly involved with the provision of undergraduate practical classes for the Department of Archaeology and with the M.Phil. courses on Social Anthropology and the Work of a Museum and on Museum Practice and Archaeology. The latter course, given this year for the first time, was completed by three students, while the Social Anthropology course was successfully completed by four candidates.

STAFF ACTIVITIES

The Curator, Dr Phillipson, continued to serve as Hon. Secretary of the British Institute in Eastern Africa and has given time to organising post-excavation work on material from Aksum, Ethiopia and Soba, Sudan. He serves on the Council of the Society of Antiquaries of London and was elected to that Society's Executive Committee. He is a Council-member of the Prehistoric Society and the Cambridge Antiquarian Society. During the year he was instrumental in re-convening the University's Joint Museums Committee of the Councils of the Schools, and was elected that Committee's Chairman. He is Vice-Chairman of the Cambridgeshire Curators' Panel, represents the University on the Cambridgeshire Museums Advisory Committee and the Council of Management of the Cambridge and County folk Museum, and is a member of the Tourism Liaison Group of Cambridge City Council. He attended and chaired a section of the conference "The Longest Record - the human career in Africa", held at the University of California in Berkeley, U.S.A., and visited a number of archaeology and anthropology museums in British Columbia, Canada. He was appointed editor of the Cambridge University Press publication *The African Archaeological Review*.

Miss Cra'ster, Senior Assistant Curator, was elected a Fellow of the Museums Association. She continued to edit the *Proceedings of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society* and to serve on that Society's Council. She represents the University of Cambridge on the Lincolnshire Archaeology Trust and the Museums Association on the Wisbech Museum Committee. In addition, she is a member of the Cambridgeshire Archaeology Committee, the Nene Valley Research Committee and the West Stow Anglo-Saxon Village Trust.

Dr Carter spent the Lent Term on sabbatical leave in Australia and the Torres Strait. In the latter area he was able to evaluate the possibility of an exhibition or other celebration of the forthcoming centenary of the Cambridge Torres Strait Expeditions. Dr Carter returned to Britain

via Berkeley, California, where he attended the conference "The Longest Record" held to honour the seventieth birthday of Professor J. Desmond Clark.

Dr Sant-Cassia presented papers in Cambridge on "Justice, *Nomos* and *Dikaiosini* in late nineteenth-century Cyprus" to the Special Lectures series on Modern Greek themes in the Faculty of Classics, and on "Bride-price and blood-money have no merit: marriage and the transmission of resources in a south Tunisian village" to the Oriental Studies Association in the Faculty of Oriental Studies. At the British Museum conference "Representations" he spoke on "Artificial curiosities and Natural Right theories". He attended a conference on the Social Anthropology of Greece at Mytilene, Greece, and delivered a paper on "Banditry in late nineteenth-century Cyprus". He was a visiting lecturer on the Social Anthropology of the Mediterranean at the University of Malta, where he also conducted research and has been elected an Overseas Council Member of the Mediterranean Studies Institute of the University of Malta. Together with the Cambridge History of Population and Social Structure Group he organised a conference entitled "Between two shores: marriage patterns in the Mediterranean" where he presented a paper on "Marriage patterns and the transmission of property in seventeenth-century Malta".

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

- D. W. Phillipson, "Man and flora in the Lake Victoria basin",
Nature (Lond.), 320 (1986): 110-111.
- P. Sant-Cassia, "Religion, politics and ethnicity in Cyprus during the *Turkocratia* (1571-1878)", *Arch. Europ. Sociol.*, 27 (1986): 3-28.