

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

MUSEUM OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY



The newly-refurbished Andrews Gallery

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ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1986-87

The Faculty Board of Archaeology and Anthropology
presents to the University the 99th Annual Report of
the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology for the
academical year 1986-87.

ADMINISTRATION

The Museum Committee met three times in the course of the year, with Professor A.C Renfrew in the chair.

STAFF

During 1986-87 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 (from 1 May 1987)

Secretary (part-time):

Mrs. R. Fisk, M.A.

Museum Assistant: J. Osbourn

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*)

In addition, the following assistant staff of the Faculty of Archaeology and Anthropology held specific

Museum responsibilities:

Head of Workshop: P.W. Smith
Workshop Assitant: M.P. Payne, M.I.A.C.T.
Photographer: G.J. Owen, L.B.I.P.P., A.R.P.S.

Following re-allocation of Assistant Staff resources in the Faculty, the Museum has been able to appoint Mrs P. Dearlove as part-time Administrative Secretary.

Once again the Museum has greatly benefitted from the work of numerous volunteer and other temporary helpers, whose names are recorded in the following pages. The Museum's full-time staff is small, and the University's financial constraints so pressing that the Museum continues to rely on such people for much of the progress of its redevelopment programme. While recognising that such a situation is far from ideal, the Board wishes to express its sincere gratitude to all who have helped in the Museum during the past year.

Mr T. Hoare, under the auspices of the Public Affairs Department of National Westminster Enterprises, has continued his excellent work for the Museum. This year he has been primarily involved with the re-processing of anthropological collections, and in the archives.

Further assistance continued to be provided by employees of the Manpower Services Commission (Cambridge Community Programme Agency) for the computerisation of the Museum's documentation, as is described below.

FINANCE

Once again the University was able to increase its provision for the recurrent funding of the Museum in line with the rate of inflation.

Non-recurrent grants of £4695, £6375 and £500 were approved by the General Board to cover the cost of racking, storage boxes and the employment of temporary assistants working on reprocessing the Museum's collections. The General Board's continued support of the Museum's redevelopment, especially under the current severe restrictions on University finance, is greatly appreciated. However, such 'hand-to-mouth' funding of what is, essentially, an ongoing programme is far from satisfactory and the Faculty Board proposes to seek substantial and more secure funding for the Museum.

A grant of £400 from the Thomas Mulvey Fund enabled Mr A. Dodson to make substantial progress with cataloguing the Egyptian archaeological collections.

The Area Museums Service for South-East England awarded a grant of £874 towards the cost of steel storage racking for the Museum's stores, and a further grant of £600 to the cost of conservation work on a totem pole from Queen Charlotte Island.

The Museums and Galleries Commission provided a capital grant of £17,500 as a contribution to the cost of structural refurbishment of the Maudslay and Andrews

Galleries. This grant will be deemed a contribution to the Museum's Centenary Appeal (see below). The continued substantial support of the Museums and Galleries Commission, following their grant of £21,747 in 1982-83 for refurbishment of the Clarke Hall, is greatly welcomed and seen as endorsement of the fact that the Museum, beyond the University, plays an important role both locally and nationally.

The involvement of Manpower Services Commission personnel in the Museum's documentation project during 1986-87 represented sponsorship valued at £58,520.

During the academical year 1986-87, the Museum's recurrent funding provisions from the University amounted to £87,000 of which £62,000 was for academic staff stipends, leaving a total of £25*000 for all other expenditure including Assistant Staff salaries. This provision should be compared with the total of approximately £120,000 that the Museum has raised or generated from other sources during the same period.

UNIVERSITY AND MUSEUM STRUCTURE

The Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology was noted as a "special factor" in calculation of the allocation of funds to the University by the University Grants Committee. It is the intention of the U.G.C. that "special factor" institutions should not bear more than their share of financial cut-back and that the

Universities which support them should not suffer financial loss as a result.

In this connection it is gratifying to note that the Museums and Galleries Commission is becoming increasingly supportive of University Museums and that it has now established direct consultation with the U.G.C. With the encouragement of the Museums and Galleries Commission, a national University Museums Group has been established which will be able to support and co-ordinate the efforts of individual institutions to secure additional resources for University museums.

Efforts further to develop University museums in Cambridge have long been hampered by the lack of a single body which could represent the needs of all the museums. It is for this reason that the Faculty Board has actively supported the convening of a Joint Museums Committee within the University. This Committee now meets regularly, and is working to ensure maximum use and appreciation, within and beyond the University, of the facilities available in the museums concerned. It is hoped that the Joint Museums Committee will, in due course, be able to offer advice on museum-related matters to all relevant bodies and to co-ordinate efforts to secure additional support for the University's museums.

REDEVELOPMENT*STORES AND RESEARCH COLLECTIONS*

Further substantial progress has been made during the year under review in the reprocessing and re-ordering of the collections. All material previously housed in the Maudslay and Andrews Galleries was so dealt with, and necessitated substantial re-organisation of the anthropological stores, both at Downing Street and externally. Work concentrated on American and Asian material, and Dr Sant-Cassia received much valued assistance from Mr T. Ponting, Mr T. Raybould, Ms F. Vincent and Miss S. Wilson.

Mrs M. H. Harris has continued her valued volunteer work on the American archaeological collections. This has included cataloguing, with the assistance of Miss S. Horrell, material excavated at Xunantunich, Belize, by Dr E. Mackie.

Miss Cra'ster continued the checking and classification of Anglo-Saxon materials and made substantial progress with cataloguing collections of archaeological material from the Canadian Arctic and from Jericho, Tell Brak, and other Near Eastern sites. She was ably assisted by Miss P.Grimston, Miss V. Mills, Miss H. Macdonald, Miss H. Robinson and Miss S. Smith. Mr A. Dodson neared completion of his cataloguing of the Ancient Egyptian collection: the Museum is grateful to Mr B Kemp and Miss J. Bourriau for their advice on this project.

MAUDSLAY AND ANDREWS GALLERIES

Much of the year under review was taken up by contractors' work on the structural refurbishment of these galleries. The work, financed by the proceeds of the Museum's Centenary Appeal (see below) has involved complete replacement of all glazing with double-glazed light-control units and renewal of all heating and lighting installations so as to create environmentally stable conditions suitable for the display of sensitive anthropological material. A passenger lift has been installed (financed by the generous gift of Mrs Margaret D. Williamson noted in last year's report) and the whole area has been completely redecorated. Wiring for audio-visual presentations has been installed.

Work is now proceeding with planning new comprehensive anthropological displays for the Maudslay Gallery. The Andrews Gallery will be provided with fittings to enable it to be used for more specialised, less permanent displays of both anthropological and archaeological material. Ms F. Vincent has been assisting Dr Sant-Cassia in preparing the necessary designs.

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 for the endowment of a graduate Museum traineeship. By September 1987 a total of £270,984.46 had been raised.

DOCUMENTATION

Further substantial progress has been made with the transcription of the museum catalogue onto the University mainframe computer using BBC micro computers for data capture. Some 15,000 archaeological and anthropological records have now been transcribed and it is proposed that with effect from January 1988 all new incoming accessions will be catalogued using the computerised system now in place. The transcription project is funded by the Manpower Services Commission through the Cambridge Community Programme Agency. Employees who have worked on the project are: Mr

J. Billings (Supervisor), Messrs R.

Alston and M. Ayres, Ms S. Burgess, Mr B. Chesham, Ms A Constantine, Messrs J. Howarth, K. Jackson, C. Minter and J. Moran, Ms R. Peacock, Messrs A. Risdon, N. Smith, M. Temple and K. Wigg. It was with great regret that we learned of the premature death of Mr Wigg in August, 1987.

The project, supervised by Dr Carter, has made notable progress, but is one that will inevitably take many years to complete, requiring continued substantial funding and increased involvement of curatorial staff time.

CONSERVATION

In the Conservation Laboratory, Mr Smith dealt with 57 items: a smaller number than usual but including some specimens of large size and complexity. Most artefacts were from the anthropological collections, those of Inuit origin being the largest group, ranging from kayaks, through clothing to minute bone and ivory carvings.

The major project to be tackled was the cleaning and conservation of the Haida totem pole from Queen Charlotte Island: work on this 14-metre-high carving was undertaken *in situ* in the Maudslay Gallery, using contractor's scaffolding.

WORKSHOP

Tasks undertaken by the workshop staff included erection of new storage racking, initiation of a new rack-numbering system, manufacture of storage boxes and cutting of storage mounts for the cabinets of British Bronze Age tools and weapons. Much additional work was carried out in preparation for, and in connection with, the refurbishment of the Maudslay and Andrews Galleries.

LOANS

The following loans were approved during the year for exhibition outside Cambridge:

A monumental brass to the Victoria and Albert Museum, London, for the *Testimony in Brass* exhibition.

A Viking brooch and medieval ring for a National Art Collections Fund exhibition in London.

Local archaeological material to the Longsands Museum, St Neots.

Four anthropological items to the Art Gallery of New South Wales, Australia, for the Bicentennial *Terra Australis* exhibition.

One engraved stone to the Royal Academy of Arts, for an exhibition on English Gothic Art.

A replica of a Bronze Age shield to Quimper Museum, France.

Arctic material to the Museum of Mankind, London, for the *Living Arctic* exhibition.

CROWTHER-BEYNON FUND

The following grants were approved for payment in March 1987 from the Fund established for the benefit of the Museum under the terms of the will of the late Mr V. B. Crowther-Beynon. The amount of money available for distribution was smaller than usual because the payment-date has been brought forward from August to March.

Major Grants (existing collections)

Dr D. W. Phillipson, £800 for a survey of Iron Age material in south-central Africa

Mr N. J. Thomas, £425 for an investigation of valuables and exchange in Fiji

Major Grants (new collections)

Mr J. W. Clarke, up to £600 for research at a Tibetan metal-working village in Ladakh

Dr C. A. Pegg, £1,200 for musicological research in Inner Mongolia

Professor G. M. G Scoditti, £1,320 for anthropological fieldwork among Kula canoe carvers in Papua New Guinea.

Minor Grant

Mr G. E. Townsley, £350 for an investigation of material culture in south-west Amazonia

VISITORS

There has been a further slight reduction in public attendances, attributable to the total closure of the anthropological displays, but a slight increase in research visitors and educational groups.

RESEARCH

Research visitors from outside Cambridge were involved in the following areas of study:

Anthropology:

African	3
American	8
Asian	10
Australiasian/ Oceania	15
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Total	36

Archaeology:

Palaeolithic	19
British	24
European	5
Asian	4
African	13
American	9
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Total	74

Archives 6

Museology 7

The origin of visiting researchers is shown below:

	British Isles	Europe	Africa	Asia	Australia/ Oceania	America
Universities	33	4	6	2	4	13
Museums	11	6	1	2	3	5
Research Units etc.	10		2		2	2
Other	11	2		1	3	
Total	65	12	9	4	10	23

EDUCATIONAL

Pre-booked educational parties, at 77, showed a slight increase over the previous year. Enquiries indicate that a major increase in such use of the Museum may be anticipated when the anthropological displays are re-opened.

Through the co-operation of the Education Department of Cambridgeshire County Council, details of the Museum's archaeological displays are now available for the use of school parties.

Further use of the archaeological gallery has been made by the Department of Extra-Mural Studies, and groups from conferences held in Cambridge. Once again, it was a pleasure to host the Christmas Party of the Friends of the Fitzwilliam Museum.

PUBLIC

There were 15,350 public visitors to the Museum during the year, despite the fact that only one gallery was open and that public opening hours are restricted to 12.5 hours per week. The public specimen-identification service dealt with 24 enquiries.

ACQUISITIONS

New acquisitions registered in 1986-87 numbered 1699. There were 1514 registrations resulting from work on collections acquired in earlier years but not then accessioned in detail.

GIFTS

Miss D. Aickman - Chinese pottery (1987.7-10)

British School of Archaeology in Jerusalem - Bone tools (1987.72-3) and lithic artefacts (1987.250-1211) from Dame Kathleen Kenyon's excavations at Jericho

Sir Vivian Fuchs - Kenyan Maasai swords (1987.1-2)

Professor J. Goody - Japanese sandals (1987.3) and Taiwanese sling (1987.4)

Dr N. Hammond - Colombian necklace (1987.247), Afghan belt (1987.248) and Mexican bark painting (1987.249)

S. MacGregor Esq. - Afghan textile (1986.94)

Lady Diana Marshall - Ethiopian painting (1986.234)

Mrs P. Mennell - Antiquities from Ecuador collected by the late Peter Mennell Esq., H.B.M. Ambassador to Ecuador 1970-74 (1987.1509-57)

Dr J. Oates (in recognition of grants from the Crowther-Beynon Fund) - Pottery from Tell Brak, Syria (1987.74-240) and from Chogha Mami and Serik, Iraq (1987.1212-1508)

C. Paine Esq. - Collection of Asian textiles (1986.95-233)

Mrs C. Pickering - Indian charms (1987.243-6)

Dr D. Swallow - Indian door-hanging (1987.6)

The late J. B. Woolley Esq. - Brunei spear (1987.5)

D. Zeitlin Esq. (in recognition of a grant from the
Crowther-Beynon Fund) - Cameroon artefacts
(1987.11-71,241-2)

DEPOSITS

Miss Griffiths - Two pairs of Amerindian moccasins
(1986.D.1-2)

PURCHASE

A Late Bronze Age axe from Abington, Cambs. (1987.1558)

TEACHING

As in previous years, all members of the curatorial staff have contributed to the teaching programmes of the Faculty at both graduate and undergraduate levels. They have been particularly involved with the teaching of African Archaeology, the provision of undergraduate practical classes for the Department of Archaeology and with the M.Phil. courses in Social Anthropology and the Work of a Museum and in Museum Practice and Archaeology.

STAFF ACTIVITIES

The Curator, Dr Phillipson, was elected Treasurer of the Society of Antiquaries of London. He has continued to serve as Hon. Secretary of the British Institute in Eastern Africa, for which body he organised a symposium at the British Academy on recent archaeological research in East Africa. He is Treasurer of the Sutton Hoo Research Trust and serves on the Council of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society. Within the University, he is Chairman of the Faculty Board of Archaeology and Anthropology and of the Joint Museums Committee. He is Vice-Chairman of the Cambridgeshire Curators' Panel, represents the University on the Cambridgeshire Museums Advisory Committee and on the Council of Management of the Cambridge and County Folk Museum, and is a member of the Tourism Liaison Group of Cambridge City Council. On sabbatical leave in the Easter Term 1987, he visited Kenya, Zambia, Botswana, Zimbabwe and Malawi to conduct research on Iron Age archaeology, and held fruitful discussions with officers of the Museums and Antiquities administrations in these countries. He continues to edit *The African Archaeological Review* for Cambridge University Press and was appointed General Editor of a forthcoming monograph series *The Peoples of Africa*.

Miss Cra'ster, Senior Assistant Curator, continued to represent the University on the Lincoln Archaeology Trust, and the Museums Association on the Wisbech Museum Committee. She edits the *Proceedings of the Cambridge*

Antiquarian Society and serves on that society's council. She is also a member of the Cambridgeshire Archaeology Committee, the West Stow Anglo-Saxon Village Trust and the Nene Valley Research Committee.

Dr Carter spent much of the year involved with the Museum's computerised documentation project. He also acted as examiner for post-graduate dissertations at a number of universities. A particularly noteworthy event during the year was the visit to the Museum by scholars from America, France, Israel and South Africa during the conference in Cambridge on *The Origin of Modern Man*. Dr Carter made special arrangements for detailed examination of the important Howiesons Poort collections from his own excavations in Lesotho and of material from the lower levels of Haua Fteah in Libya, excavated by the late Professor C.B.M. McBurney.

Dr Sant-Cassia conducted fieldwork in Ioannina in the Epiros District of northern Greece on banditry, and in the Paphos District of Cyprus on politics and kinship. He has been appointed a contributing editor (with special reference to Tunisia) of a Mediterranean Anthropology journal published in Rome. He delivered a paper on the social anthropology of Mediterranean islands at the Second International Conference of the Euro-Arab University, held in Malta.

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

- P.L. Carter, "Hunter-gatherers: past and present". *Journal Anthropological Society of Oxford*, 18(1987): 67-9.
- D.W. Phillipson (ed.), *Mosi-oa-Tunya: a handbook to the Victoria Falls region*, second revised edition, Longmans (1986).
- D. W. Phillipson, "The human career in Africa", *Current Anthropology*, 27(1986): 525-7.
- D.W. Phillipson, *National Monuments of Zambia: an illustrated guide*, third revised edition, Zambia National Monuments Commission (1987).
- D. W. Phillipson (ed.). *Papers in Honour of J. Desmond Clark*, being vol. 5 of *The African Archaeological Review*, Cambridge University Press (1987).
- P. Sant-Cassia, "A plea for islands: the social anthropology of islands in the Mediterranean", *Proceedings of the Euro-Arab University Conference*, Malta (1987).