



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

MUSEUM OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY



*A view of the new anthropology gallery opened in
July 1990*

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1989-90

The Faculty Board of Archaeology and Anthropology presents
to the University the 102nd Annual Report of the Museum of
Anthropology and Anthropology for the academical year 1989-90.

ADMINISTRATION

The Museum Committee met three times during the year, under the Chairmanship of Dr M. Lawrence in the Michaelmas Term, and Dr S. Hugh-Jones in the Lent and Easter Terms.

STAFF

For the year under review the staff of the Museum was as follows:

Curator: David W. Phillipson, M.A., Ph.D., F.S.A.

[on leave]

Senior Assistant Curator (palaeolithic archaeology): P.

L. Carter, M.A., Ph.D. [Acting Curator] *Assistant Curator (anthropology):*

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

Assistant Curator (later archaeology):

C. R. Chippindale, B.A., Ph.D., M.I.F.A.

Administrative Secretary (part-time):

Ms A. Wetten (from 15 October)

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.

(from 29 January) W.J. Blackburn

(From 1 June) Mrs. 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 Assistant: C. Langford

Photographer: G. J. Owen, L.B.I.P.P., A.R.P.S.

The Museum was pleased to welcome Ms A. Wetten as part-time Administrative Secretary in October 1989, and Mr W.J. Blackburn as part-time Attendant in January 1990. Mrs A Came, a former Attendant, re-joined the staff in June 1990.

A number of temporary staff were employed to work on setting up anthropological displays in the newly refurbished Maudslay and Andrews galleries. These posts were financed from the proceeds of the Museum's Centenary Appeal. Ms F. Vincent (Designer), Ms A. Herle and Dr A. Jewett were so employed until the opening of the new displays in July. The names of the many other people who assisted in the preparation of the new displays are recorded elsewhere.

As in previous years, the Museum's work has depended heavily on the much-valued assistance of several volunteers. The contribution of Mrs M.H. Harris in the field of American archaeology is noted below. Mr T. Hoare has also worked regularly as a volunteer in the Museum.

Mr M. Ayres worked on computerised documentation until February.

FINANCE

Paucity of resources to meet the Museum's running and development costs continued to be a matter of grave concern to the Faculty Board. The University's recurrent provisions continued to decline relative to the prevailing rate of inflation.

A very welcome grant of £2000 was received from Cambridge City Council towards the cost of the public services provided by the Museum. Since the Museum, in addition to its University functions, is a significant public facility for the City and County, it is to be hoped that such support from the local authorities will continue and increase.

JOINT MUSEUMS COMMITTEE

The Faculty Board has been gratified to note that, after prolonged discussions, a Joint Museums Committee has been formally constituted within the University, with the role of advising the central bodies on all matters relating to museums. For the first time there is thus a forum for the formal discussion of matters which concern all the

University's museums, including those which operate under the Council of the Senate as well as those in General Board institutions. The Faculty Board has long argued the need for such a Committee and trusts that its establishment will serve the interests both of the University and of the museums which it owns.

REGISTRATION

The Museum obtained full registration under the new scheme administered by the Museums and Galleries Commission. This confirms the Museum's eligibility for grant-aid from the Commission and other Government-funded agencies.

EXHIBITIONS

Until the summer, major effort was devoted to the installation of new anthropological displays in the newly refurbished Maudslay Gallery on the first floor of the Museum. This project was undertaken under the supervision, of Dr Sant-Cassia, with Ms F Vincent as Exhibit Designer and Ms A. Herle and Dr A. Jewett as Display Assistants. Additional help and advice was provided by Dr R. Abrahams, Mrs J. Boast, Mrs B. Bodenhorn, Mr T. Cadbury, Dr K. Cech, Ms G. Crowther, Dr S. Drucker-Brown, Mr P. Gathercole, Dr I. Hart, Dr S. Hooper, Dr S. Hugh-Jones, Dr G.I. Jones, Mrs J. Killman, Ms M. Kudo, Ms A. Lovelace, Dr D. Quigley, Dr S. Rostas, Mr B. Smith, Mr D. Sneath and Dr N. Thomas.

At the same time there was being installed in the second-floor Andrews Gallery a special exhibition on the Nagas. This is based on the work of a research project led by Dr A. Macfarlane in the Social Anthropology department and was installed by Ms A. Herle and Mr J. Jacobs together with Museum staff. The exhibits are primarily drawn from the Museum's collections, supplemented by loans from the Pitt Rivers Museum at Oxford and from a number of private owners.

A Naga men's house (*morung*) has been reconstructed to contain an interactive video installation.

Both the main Anthropology gallery and the Naga exhibition were formally opened on 4 July by the University's Chancellor, His Royal Highness The Prince Philip. The Chancellor was able to meet members of the

Museum staff and others who had been involved with the preparation of the new displays. Afterwards, a reception and private view was held in the galleries, attended by some 280 invited guests.

A photographic exhibition was installed on the Museum's staircase by Dr Sant-Cassia on Andalusian religious festivals.

Together with the County Archaeologist and with the co-operation of the National Trust, Dr Chippindale mounted at Wimpole Hall from May to October a temporary exhibition of finds from the Saxon cemetery at Barrington, and from other sites in the immediate neighbourhood.

MAINTENANCE AND DEVELOPMENT*MAUDSLAY AND ANDREWS GALLERIES*

The Museum's security arrangements were reviewed by the National Museums Security Adviser and a number of improvements made. As a result the Museum is now eligible to apply for Government Indemnity covering inward loans.

AMERICAN COLLECTIONS

The voluntary service of Mrs Mary Hill Harris has continued as curator of American archaeology. During the past year Mrs Harris has carried out the usual curatorial tasks of dealing with public and research enquiries, but the main bulk of her time has been spent in the transcription of the Peruvian Archaeology catalogue onto the Museum database.

During the 1989-90 academic year Mrs Harris also undertook preliminary research and enquiries relating to a proposed special exhibition of American material in 1992.

CENTENARY APPEAL

By September 1990 receipts to the Appeal, launched in May 1984, totalled £369,520. The cost of refurbishing the « Maudslay and Andrews galleries, and the installation of new anthropological displays, has been met from the Appeal. Fund-raising is now continuing for its second stated objective, the endowment of graduate traineeships.

DOCUMENTATION

Mrs Harris continued the transcription and recataloguing of American archaeology collections.

Modest forward momentum was maintained in transcribing other portions of the old card catalogue.

Mr Jonathan Grove gave valuable help as a volunteer in completing the catalogue entries for the De Lotbiniere collection of gunflints.

WORKSHOP AND CONSERVATION LABORATORY

In the Conservation Laboratory, Mr Smith was able to work on a total of 189 objects, most of which were required for inclusion in the new anthropological displays. He was also closely involved with the planning of new and refurbished showcases in the Maudslay and Andrews galleries, with particular emphasis on lighting, environmental conditions, the programming of work, and organising the transport and installation of outsize specimens.

Mr Smith advised on many display and mounting matters, numerous case fittings and mounts being produced by workshop staff.

LOANS

Within the University, a loan of three bronze artefacts was made to an exhibition held at the University Library to mark the 150th anniversary of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society. It was particularly appropriate for the Museum to participate in this event, for the Society transferred to the University in 1883 the collection of antiquities which formed the basis of the present Museum, these bronzes among them.

The following loans were made to exhibitions outside Cambridge:

Two silver ingots from the Cuerdale hoard, to Liverpool Museum for the exhibition 'A Silver Saga' from May to September 1990.

A Minoan dagger (not a fake) to British Museum for 'Fake!' exhibition from May to September 1990.

Portions of Barrington Saxon grave-groups to the National Trust, Wimpole Hall, for an exhibition arranged jointly with the County Archaeologist.

Iron Age artefacts to Letchworth 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.

Ms R.D.A. Bartlett - Hawaiian artefacts: £250.

Mr B.M. Bierlich - Clothing and textiles from Daboya, Ghana: £720.

Miss M.D. Cra'ster - publication of Bronze Age catalogue: £1,000.

Mr R. Fsadni - Libyan marital gifts: £900.

Mr N. Holman - work on catalogue of British Bronze Age material: £450.

Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology - transcription of catalogue cards onto computerised data-base: £6,000.

Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology - preparation of an exhibition in the Andrews Gallery: £5,000.

Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology - processing of recent acquisitions: £1,100.

Dr J Oates - Tel Brak excavation, Syria: £1,000.

Mr I.E. Papadakis - Cypriote votive offerings: £450.

Mr W.J.M. Sillar - Peruvian pottery: £900.

VISITORS

RESEARCH

Access to the Museum collection by external researchers was reduced during the year, due to the extensive exhibition work described above. Every effort was made to meet the needs of visitors, but some reduction in the facilities was inevitably experienced.

During the Lent Term Mr Dana Oba from Saibai Island in the Torres Strait visited the Museum to examine material collected by A.C. Haddon. Mr Oba, who is the first Torres Strait Islander to visit the Museum, is engaged in making a film about the Islands today. The Museum was very pleased at last to be in a position to provide hospitality, on however limited a scale, to a representative from the Islands.

PUBLIC

There were 10,904 public visitors to the Museum during the year. Prior to the opening of the new galleries in July, attendance figures were well below those of the previous year. After July this trend was reversed.

Two 'activity days' for children, organised by the County Council's Museums Officer, were well attended.

32 pre-booked school parties visited the Museum during the year.

The public specimen-identification service dealt with 27 enquires.

ACQUISITIONS

The following list details acquisitions catalogued during the calendar year 1989. A full record exists in the museum's catalogue, and as a checklist printed out from the catalogue.

GIFTS

Executors of the late Mr S. de Lotbiniere - cores and other flint artefacts associated with gunflint manufacture, mainly at Brandon, Suffolk (1989.24-124)
 - prehistoric flint artefacts from the Brandon area of Suffolk (1989.125-54)

Dr S. Rostas (Crowther-Beynon Fund) - Tenejapa textiles, wooden artefacts, receptacles and ornaments from Chiapas, Mexico (1989.1-19).

TEACHING

The curatorial staff have continued their full participation in the Faculty's teaching of undergraduates and graduates. In addition to the supervision of doctoral students in their respective specialisms, they were again much involved in the teaching of Palaeolithic and African archaeology, and the anthropology of politics and art.

STAFF ACTIVITIES

The Curator, Dr Phillipson was on sabbatical leave throughout the year under review. He continued his research on African archaeology, visiting Ethiopia, Nigeria, Gabon and South Africa, and attending conferences in Addis Ababa, Ibadan, Libreville and London.

Dr Carter acted as Curator throughout the year in the absence of Dr Phillipson on sabbatical leave.

Dr Chippindale carried out curatorial duties concerning the later archaeology collections, the catalogue, and archaeology of the Cambridge region. He gave lectures in various places and occasions. He edited four issues of Antiquity, and as a visiting research fellow at the Australian National University commenced fieldwork in northern Australia, in collaboration with colleagues from the ANU. He was re-appointed Associate, Glen Black Laboratory, Indiana University, and was series consultant for Down to earth, a series of television programmes to be broadcast on Channel 4

During the academic year Dr Paul Sant-Cassia was fully occupied with the final phase of the organisation of setting-up the new anthropology displays, as well as with teaching for the Department of Social Anthropology.

Following the opening of the new galleries, he presented a paper at the 4th meeting of the Itinerant Euro/Arab University, Rathymnon, Crete on Mediterranean concepts of the environment. He conducted fieldwork in Cyprus and organised a fieldwork project for Anthropology

for students in a village in Malta. He also presented papers at the 1st E.A.S.A. Conference at Coimbra, Portugal; and at the V Rassegna Internazionale di Documentare Etnografici e Antropologici, Nuoro, Sardinia. He attended the International Conference on Anglo-Italian literacy and cultural relations 1300-1930, at the University of Malta and was appointed editor of the Journal of Mediterranean Studies

In addition to the volunteer curatorial work noted above, Mrs Harris completed a chapter on ceramics for the Archaeological Survey of Barbados report, to be published in 1991 as an Institute of Archaeology monograph, and attended two 2-day conferences on Latin American archaeology, in Oxford and in London.

PUBLICATIONS

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

David Phillipson

1989. Bantu-speaking people in southern Africa: and archaeological perspective. In T. Obenga (ed.) Les Peuples Bantu: migrations, expansion et identite culturelle: 145-64. Paris: l'Harmattan.
1990. The first South African pastoralists and the Early Iron Age, Nsi 6: 127-34.

Paul Sant-Cassia

'Museologia or Museosophia': some considerations on the organisation of the new anthropology display at the Cambridge Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, Archaeological Review from Cambridge 9: 2 (aesthetics in archaeology).

Christopher Chippindale

1989. Introductory essay to Mick Sharp, The Land of Cods and Giants (Gloucester: Alan Sutton).

1990. An intellectual history of Stonehenge studies: the explanation of a 'unique' monument, in Val Pinsky & Alison Wylie (ed.). Critical traditions in contemporary archaeology. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

1990. 'Social' and 'processual' archaeology in the nineteenth century: is it right to look for new ideas in old places?, in A. Christenson (ed.), Tracing archaeology's past: the historiography of archaeology. Carbondale (IL): Southern Illinois University Press.

1990. Who owns Stonehenge?. London: Batsford. [With Peter Fowler and others.]

1990. Heritage at sea: proposals for the better protection of British archaeological sites underwater, Antiquity 64: 390-400. [With David Gibbins.]

1990. Conference report. Thirteenth TAG (Theoretical Archaeology Group) Conference, Current Anthropology 31: 301-4.