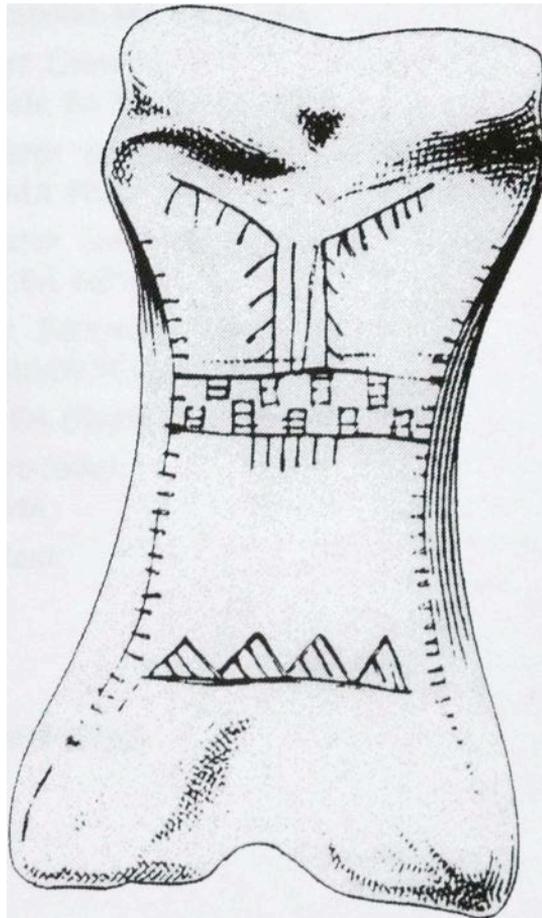




UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

MUSEUM OF  
ARCHAEOLOGY AND  
ANTHROPOLOGY



ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1993-94

The Faculty Board of Archaeology and Anthropology presents to the University the 106th Annual Report of the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology for the academical year 1993-94.

### Administration

---

The Museum Committee met three times during the year, under the chairmanship of Professor M. Jones.

### Staff

---

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

*Curator:*

David W. Phillipson MA Ph.D FSA

*Senior Assistant Curator:*

C.R. Chippindale BA Ph.D FSA MIFA

*Assistant Curator (archaeology):*

R.B. Boast BA MA Ph.D

*Assistant Curator (anthropology):*

Ms A.C. Herle BA MPhil.

*Administrative Secretary (part-time):*

Ms A. Wetten (until 31 October 1993)

Mrs S.J. Beales BA (from 1 November 1993)

*Secretary (part-time):*

Mrs R.C. Fisk MA

*Museum Assistant:*

J. Osbourn

*Attendant:*

B. Lewis

*Attendants (part-time):*

Mrs A. Came

E. Kirby

B. Green

F.E. Reeves

*Honorary Assistant Curator:*

Mary Hill Harris AB MA

*Honorary Keepers:*

G.I. Jones MA Ph.D (*Nigerian anthropology*)

L.E.R. Picken, MA Ph.D Sc.D FBA (*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 ABIPP ARPS

There were no changes in the curatorial staff during the year. Dr Phillipson was on sabbatical leave from October until December 1993, Dr Chippindale serving as Acting Curator during his absence.

The Museum Secretary, Mrs Fisk, retired on September 30 1994 after fifteen years' service. She will be much missed and has the Board's best wishes for a long and happy retirement. Mrs J. Falkner was appointed Secretary with effect from 1 October 1994.

As in the past, the Museum has depended very heavily upon the services of temporary employees and volunteers. Mrs Mary Hill Harris, Honorary Assistant Curator, has continued her excellent work on the American archaeological collections. Mr T.E. Hoare continued his greatly appreciated volunteer assistance with the anthropological collections and the archives. Details of other temporary employees and volunteers are given below.

## Finance

---

The University continued its support for the Museum's recurrent financial needs at the same level as previously. The Higher Education Funding Council for England undertook a review of the mechanism known as Non-Formula Funding whereby universities receive certain funds designated as a contribution towards the cost of maintaining institutions, such as the Museum, whose importance extends beyond the Faculty and University of which they form part. The national importance of the Museum in this respect has been

recognised by the relevant funding council since the inception of nonformula funding. By the end of the year under review the results of this exercise had not been announced.

The Museum has again been successful in attracting external funding for particular projects. The University made non-recurrent grants of £5000 towards the cost of documentation, and £18,000 for emergency work on the collections following the sudden rise in humidity, noted below, in certain of the Museum's storage areas. Cambridgeshire County Council contributed £500 to publicity for the forthcoming special exhibition *Living Traditions*. The Museums and Galleries Commission made a grant of £1000 towards the purchase of an aboriginal acrylic painting from Yuendumu, Australia. Grants from the Museum's Crowther-Beynon Fund are listed in a later section of this report.

Cambridge City Council generously increased its grant in support of the public aspects of the Museum's work. The contribution for 1994- 95, of £3000, enabled the Museum significantly to extend its public opening hours for the peak visitor months from July to September, during the Long Vacation. By opening for two hours each weekday morning during this period, the Museum attracted numerous additional visitors, including many local residents who might otherwise have been unable to see the galleries. It was also possible to avoid any gallery closures during the periods when attendant staff were on holiday. The City Council's recognition and support for the Museum is much appreciated. The success of the work which it facilitated will, it is hoped, lead not only to the grant being renewed and augmented next year, but to its being matched by other local authorities in Cambridgeshire.

Through the good offices of the County Museums Officer, Cambridgeshire County Council continued to underwrite the cost of opening the special exhibition *The Americas 1492* on two mornings a week during the Michaelmas Term to permit visits by school parties who were unable to come in the afternoons.

### Exhibitions

---

The special exhibition *The Americas 1492*, described in the 1991-92 Report, continued in the Andrews Gallery until late September 1994. It has proved extremely popular, not least with school parties, since

it is directly relevant to sections of the National Curriculum. As noted above, Cambridgeshire County Council underwrote the cost of opening the exhibition to pre-booked school parties on two mornings per week. The success of this exhibition is due to the expertise and vision of Mrs Harris.

Preparation for the next special exhibition *Living Traditions*, is proceeding but has been delayed through the non-availability of full workshop facilities. Artefacts have been selected for all sections and the overall design has been completed. All members of the curatorial staff are contributing to the exhibition, which is under the general direction of Ms Herle. A publication to accompany it is being edited by Ms Herle and Dr Phillipson. Dr G. Crowther was temporarily employed to assist with the section devoted to the Canadian Northwest Coast; Dr L. Pillbrook is assisting with artwork; and Mr J. Perry has volunteered research assistance.

A temporary exhibition *Horse breeders of Ancient Asia: the origins of horse husbandry on the Kazakh Steppe* was held in the Clarke Gallery from May to July 1993. It presented finds from excavations at Botai, a Copper Age settlement in northern Kazakhstan which is of fundamental importance for the prehistory of horse domestication. The exhibition, the first archaeological display from Kazakhstan to travel to the West, was brought to Cambridge by Dr V. Zaibert of the Kazakh Academy of Sciences. As a visiting scholar, and accompanied by his translator Mr D. Vertkin, Professor Zaibert studied and lectured in Cambridge and at other British universities. The venture was devised by Dr M. Levine of the Department of Archaeology, and supported by travel funding from a range of national funding bodies.

The temporary exhibitions on the British Neolithic Axe Trade and on Nepalese shamanism continued in the Clark and Maudslay Galleries respectively.

The Museum is co-operating with preparations for a major exhibition *University of Cambridge: foundations for the future* to be held in January 1995 at Christie's, London, under the auspices of the Cambridge Foundation and the University Development Office.

## **Maintenance and development**

### *Buildings*

---

Disruption in the Museum through building work on adjacent sites intensified during 1993-94. Storage areas immediately adjacent to the new West Building of the McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research and the Department of Archaeology suffered a serious increase in humidity levels. As noted below, extensive movement and checking of collections had to be undertaken at very short notice, and some emergency conservation work was necessary: fortunately the University was able to provide a non-recurrent grant to meet the cost of this. The cause of the increased humidity has not been satisfactorily established, despite the employment of consultants by the Estate Management and Building Service. By the end of the year under review, however, there were indications that conditions might be returning to more satisfactory levels.

Further alterations to fire-escape routes and intruder alarm systems were made in response to needs imposed by the construction of the West Building. Security measures were improved throughout the Museum

The Museum's electric wiring was thoroughly checked and necessary changes made. Additional conduits were installed to permit computer networking.

The air conditioning unit in the Photographic Archive store gave problems during the year. The installation has been modified, but it is not yet clear whether the problem has been satisfactorily resolved.

Approval was obtained for the installation of strengthening and light-filtering film to gallery and workroom windows on the ground and first floors of the Museum. Preparatory work has been undertaken and it is hoped that installation will be completed during the autumn of 1994.

### ***Documentation and collections management***

---

Computerised museum documentation systems have had a long and unproductive history. Dr Boast is in the middle of a three-year

programme to develop the Museum's computerised catalogue for extended access by researchers and students.

It was possible to continue the employment of Ms A. McKeating on transcribing the anthropology catalogue records on to the computerised database. Approximately 6000 new records were added during the year, including all those relating to Europe, East Asia and South Asia. In addition, records were checked and information added to the North and South American records that had been transcribed in 1992-93. This work was partly assisted by the temporary employment of Ms J. Tanner.

All boxes in the Babington Store and many of those in the Bevan Store were checked for artefacts which may have been adversely affected by the rise in humidity noted above. Several hundred artefacts were removed for conservation.

The collection of musical instruments has been systematically reorganised, and the African examples moved to the external storage facility. Assistance with this work was provided by Ms J. Cox, Mr T. Hoare, Ms A. McKeating and Ms J. Tanner.

Dr Boast has continued his work in the Keyser Store, being assisted by a number of volunteers and short-term employees. Ms O. Rodriguez and Ms M. Gabaldon from the Universidad Autonoma, Madrid, continued in August with the final reorganisation of the archaeology teaching collection. They are jointly preparing an article on the Museum for a popular archaeological journal in Spain. Ms M. MacDonald-Aitken assisted for one day per week from September to December, largely incorporating location data into the catalogue. Dr S. Guha was employed for four months to assess damage to stored artefacts due to increased humidity, as noted above.

Transcription of the old archaeology catalogue cards continued, with some 15,000 records being added; and was near completion at the end of the year. Mr T. Cadbury was employed part-time on this project and his expertise contributed much to resolving the inevitable difficulties which were encountered. Dr S. Guha also worked on transcription, and on preparing separate records of storage locations. These location records will in due course be incorporated into the main archaeology database when this moves, during 1994-95, from Muscat on the Phoenix system to the customised version of Oracle on Unix.

In the photographic archive. Dr L. Tillbrook produced a catalogue of photographs taken in Tibet and Bhutan by the late Mr F.

Williamson, matching hundreds of negatives with prints mounted in the Williamson albums. Work has also begun on transferring to video the cine film taken in Manchuria by the late Dr E.J. Lindgren: this will greatly facilitate use of this important material by future researchers.

Sixteen new postcards, showing Museum exhibits, were published in mid-1994 and immediately proved popular with visitors.

### *Meetings and events*

---

The Museum hosted a meeting in February of the Museum Ethnographers Group, of which Ms Herle continues to serve as Secretary.

Ms Herle offered a special Museum tour and identification session for members of the British Association of Korean Studies, led by Dr G.L. Barnes.

Mrs Harris offered talks and gallery tours to students from Lucy Cavendish and Homerton Colleges. She also organised the availability of American materials for a group of partially sighted children from the Grove School.

Further meetings held at the Museum included the termly gathering of the heads of Cambridge University Museums, and one called to discuss the possibility of a joint initiative in providing museum services to school children.

The Museum again offered tours of the galleries and other facilities to a number of groups, including participants in the University's Alumni Weekend in September. These visits are proving increasingly popular.

A reception was held at the Museum in July for participants in the international conference 'The Growth of Farming Communities in Africa from the Equator Southwards' sponsored by the British Institute in Eastern Africa and organised by Dr J. Sutton and Dr Phillipson through the University's African Studies Centre.

### Workshop and conservation laboratory

---

Mr Smith and Mr Langford were much involved during the year with tasks resulting from the building works and reorganisation outlined above. The completion of the new West Building and its inter-

connection with the Museum have both involved much detailed attention from the Workshop staff. For the whole of the year under review, the Faculty Workshop was out of commission, and work could only be undertaken on a much reduced scale in the Conservation Laboratory on the third floor of the Museum. Minor alterations were undertaken in the galleries, plinths and mounts were made in readiness for the forthcoming *Living Traditions* exhibition, and the fumigation programme continued. Conservation was undertaken on approximately 200 items which had been adversely affected by increased humidity in storage areas adjacent to the new West Building.

### **Photographic Studio**

---

The Museum is one of One two major users of this Faculty facility. Mr Owen undertook much studio photography of Museum specimens for publication, and recording work was done on approximately 175 acquisitions. In connection with the *Horse breeders of Ancient Asia* exhibition, all the material loaned from Kazakhstan was photographed, as were the displays themselves. In the Photographic Archives, Mr Owen assisted visiting researchers and co-operated with the work of temporary assistants. He commenced the computerised listing of artefact photographs. In May, at the request of the County Museums Officer, Mr Owen ran a day school on museum photography. He also lectured to an area meeting of the Royal Photographic Society, with illustrations from his work for the Museum

### **Loans**

---

Three Hopi and Zuni kachinas were lent for a special exhibition at the Musée des Arts Africains, Océaniens, Amérindiens in Marseilles from July to September 1994.

Nine Etruscan mirrors were loaned to the Fitzwilliam Museum for exhibition.

## **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 N. Bethel — Recent Bahamas artefacts: £500

Mr J.W. Blythe — Ethnographic fieldwork in post-Socialist Mongolia: £1250

Ms J. Greene-Roesel — Guyana women's worlds: £800

Mrs M.H. Harris — Study of Barbados prehistoric pottery: £300

Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology — Great Chesterford archaeology: £2500

Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology — Preparation of special exhibition: £4000

Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology — Cataloguing: £11235

Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology — Acquisition of Specimens Fund: £1750

Ms J. Pettigrew — Video on Nepalese shamanism: £700

Ms F. Vincent — Native American crafts: £600

## **Visitors**

---

### *Research*

---

As in previous years, substantial numbers of researchers visited the Museum from outside Cambridge in order to examine the collections, archives and other facilities. Their fields of study may be summarised as follows:

#### Anthropology

European	1
African	2
American	10
Asian	9
Australian/Oceanian	16

Archaeology	
British	26
European	12
African	9
American	1
Asian	8
Australian/Oceanian	1
Photographs and archives	10
Museology	15

Researchers came from the following places:

	Universities	Museums	Other
UK	34	11	17
Europe	13	4	-
Africa	-	1	1
America	8	5	2
Asia	3	6	-
Australasia/Oceania	9	6	-

In addition, several hundred enquiries on both anthropological and archaeological topics were answered by correspondence or telephone.

### ***Public***

---

During the year under review, public visitors to the Museum totalled 15,831. This represents a 1% increase over the figure recorded in the previous year. This is a somewhat disappointing figure in view of the extended opening hours during the summer months, when 1653 visitors were recorded.

116 pre-booked educational parties visited the Museum during the year.

The public specimen-identification service dealt with 65 enquiries.

## **Acquisitions**

---

### *Gifts\**

---

- Dr G. Abungu, National Museums of Kenya: Early potsherds from Kenyan coastal sites (1993.71-2).
- Mr J.V.T. Campbell: Australian boomerang, clubs from Papua New Guinea, Tuvalu spearheads, Indian sword (1993.171-6).
- Ms C. Chou: Fishing equipment and basketry from Riau, Batam, Indonesia (1993.177-226)\*.
- Mrs E. Emery: Kalahari San tools and weapons, Botswana (1993.6-13).
- Mr H. Fairhurst: Dress sword from Bhutan (1993.144).
- Ms I. Papadakis: Votive offerings and religious ornaments, Cyprus (1993.76-100)\*.
- Drs L. and D. Phillipson: Zambian beer baskets, Boran woodworking tool from Kenya (1993.73-5).
- Mr W. Sillar: Pottery from Huayculi, Bolivia (1993.1-5)\*.
- Mrs R. Van Velsen (in memory of Dr J. Van Velsen): Wooden headrest from southern Ethiopia (1993.146).
- Mr S. White: Stone tools etc. from Nigeria, Kenya and Tanzania (1993.61-66).
- Yarjung Kromchhain Tamu: Shamanistic material from central Nepal (1993.14-52)\*.

### *Purchase*

---

Cast copper ingot from northern Zimbabwe (1993.67).

### *Transfer*

---

Fitzwilliam Museum (Reitlinger Trust): Masks, statues and metal boxes from West Africa, Oceanian weapons (1993.149-69).

---

\*indicates that the collection was aided by a grant from the Crowther-Beynon Fund

## Teaching

---

All members of the curatorial staff have continued to contribute to the Faculty's teaching of undergraduate and graduate students, particularly in the fields of African archaeology, the anthropology of art, and museum-related studies at MPhil. level. Dr Phillipson supervised doctoral students in African archaeology. Dr Boast was joint co-ordinator for the Archaeological Heritage Management option and taught extensively for this MPhil. course. Ms Herle continued as course co-ordinator and lecturer for the MPhil. option B 'Anthropology and Museums' paper, and for Prelim. Paper 3C 'Anthropology, Communication and the Arts' in the Department of Social Anthropology. Dr Chippindale taught classes for the Departments of Archaeology and Social Anthropology, and for the Board of Continuing Education. During the year discussions were undertaken both at the Joint Museums Committee and with the Board of Continuing Education concerning the possibility of establishing a programme of inter-disciplinary curatorial training.

## Staff Activities

---

The Curator, Dr Phillipson, holds the concurrent appointment of Reader in African Prehistory. He was re-elected Vice-Chairman of the County Museums Advisory Committee, and continued to serve as Chairman of the Cambridgeshire Curators Panel and, *ex officio*, as a Council member of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society. During the year he was elected President of the British Institute in Eastern Africa. He lectured on his Ethiopian research to the Society of Antiquaries of London, to the Anglo-Ethiopian Society and at Nottingham and Leicester Universities. He co-organised an international conference, held in Cambridge in July under the joint auspices of the British Institute in Eastern Africa and the University's African Studies Centre, on the early development of farming societies in sub-equatorial Africa. He advised the National Trust on the reinstatement of museum displays at Tatton Park, Knutsford. After 8 years, Dr Phillipson relinquished the editorship of the annual *African Archaeological Review*.

Dr Chippindale continued as a Trustee of the Bead Study Trust, and an associate of the Glenn Black Laboratory at Indiana University, and an advisory editor to *Archaeology*. Once again he

was a Visiting Fellow at the Australian National University and its Northern Australia Research Unit. He gave seminars and lectures and attended conferences on several continents. While in Australia he took the opportunity to visit Torres Strait and there to establish personal contact between the Museum and the Meriam people of Murray Island, where the major part of the A.C. Haddon collection originated. He served on the working group on ethics with the Society for American Archaeology.

Ms Herle continued to serve as Secretary to the Museum Ethnographers Group, and assisted with organisation of the group's A.G.M. and Conference in Glasgow. She was appointed Director of Studies in Archaeology and Anthropology at Trinity Hall. She delivered papers on 'Naga Art and Architecture' in the Asian Arts Programme at the School of Oriental and African Studies in London on 15 February, on 'Changing Places: Anthropology, Museums and Representation' in the Department of Social Anthropology's Senior Seminar series on 13 May, and on 'An Active Collaboration' at the Museums Association Annual Conference in Brighton on 14 September.

Dr Boast has been appointed Chairman of the Faculty's Information Technology Committee. He also serves on the Governing Board of the Society of Museum Archaeologists. He was a guest lecturer at both the Universidad de Santiago, Spain, and the Universidad de Braga, Portugal.

Mrs Harris lectured to the Friends of Wisbech and Fenland Museum, and attended a conference in London on South American archaeology.

## **Research**

---

The Virtual Teaching Collection project, noted in last year's report, officially began under Dr Boast's co-direction in February 1994. Funded by a major special grant from the Higher Education Funding Council for England, the project aims to make rare and dispersed teaching collections as widely available as possible in institutions of higher education through the development of image databases, while also exploring the potentials of multi-media presentation. Since March, the project has appointed a number of specialists to its team. Dr L. Thomas (Ph.D in image compression, Swansea) is head of systems development; Ms S. Lucy, a Cambridge research student, is

the project's archaeologist; Mr M. Wintroub, a doctoral candidate at the University of California at Los Angeles, is the project's historian of science; and Mr C. Gere, Ph.D student at Middlesex University, is the designer. The project is making excellent progress and expects to have a working prototype by January 1995 — six months ahead of schedule.

Dr Boast continued his research on the Early Bronze Age of Britain and on the critical application of formal analysis in archaeology. His principal projects include 'Prehistoric Landscapes: a Sense of Place', a joint investigation with Dr Felipe Criado Boado (Departamenti de Historia y Xenographia, Universidad de Santiago de Compostela, Spain). It explores the development of complex relationships between constructions in the landscape, and how these landscapes influenced the ways people thought about their world. The Als Prehistoric Settlement Project seeks to illustrate developing settlement patterns on an island off the south-east coast of Denmark. Through surface survey, strategic excavation, remote sensing and advanced geographic information systems (GIS), the project aims to model the changing settlement strategies employed on Als from the later Neolithic to the Iron Age (3000 BC-AD 200).

Dr Chippindale undertook another field season in western Arnhem Land, with further solid progress on his complementary research projects on old painted art and on the direct radiocarbon dating of beeswax art, in collaboration with colleagues from universities and museums in Australia, Canada and the USA. These projects received support from the British Academy and the McDonald Fieldwork Fund, as well as from non-British sources.

Dr Phillipson directed the first season of a new 5-year excavation project at Aksum in northern Ethiopia: the project is sponsored by the British Institute in Eastern Africa with additional support from the Society of Antiquaries of London, the British Academy, the McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research and the British Museum. It is based in Cambridge at the McDonald Institute and employs Dr J. Phillips as Research Assistant. The project seeks to explain the rise of urbanism in northern Ethiopia and to illustrate many aspects of this little known African civilisation.

Ms Herle conducted fieldwork and archival research in the Alberta and Saskatchewan provinces of Canada on the relationship between Pow Wow and Pan-Indianism, and continued her research on the relationship between indigenous peoples and museums.

Mrs Harris, supported by a grant from the Crowther-Beynon Fund, visited Barbados to study the large quantity of pottery from the Hillcrest site, to be compared with material from there which is now in the Museum collections. The results of this work will be presented in 1995 at the Sixteenth Congress of Caribbean Archaeology.

## **Publications**

---

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

- C.R. Chippindale. 1993. Dating and Australian archaeology, in R. Bednarik (ed.). *Selected Papers of the First AASU Symposium on Archaeological Dating: 3-7*. Melbourne: AASU (*Artefact* 16.)
- C.R. Chippindale. 1993. Material and intellectual consequences of esteem for Cycladic figures (with D. Gill), *American Journal of Archaeology* 97(4): 601-59.
- C.R. Chippindale. 1993. Two old painted panels from Kakadu: variation and sequence in Arnhem Land rock art (with P.S.C. Taçon), in J. Steinbring *et al.* (eds.). *Time and Space: dating and spatial considerations in rock art research (papers of Symposia F and G, AURA Congress, Cairns 1992)*: 32-56. Melbourne: Australian Rock Art Research Association. Occasional AURA Publication 8.
- C.R. Chippindale. 1994. *Stonehenge Complete*. 2nd edition. London and New York: Thames & Hudson.
- C.R. Chippindale. 1994. Prehistoric Stonehenge richly imagined, review of Rodney Castleden, 'The making of Stonehenge', *Minerva*.
- C.R. Chippindale. 1994. Training: University of Cambridge one-year course. Archaeological Heritage and Museums, leading to the degree of Master of Philosophy, *Museum Management and Curatorship* 13(1): 108.
- C.R. Chippindale. 1994. Australia's ancient warriors: changing depictions of fighting in the rock art of Arnhem Land, NT (with P.S.C. Taçon), *Cambridge Archaeological Journal* 4.
- M.H. Harris, 1993. Contribution on pottery, in P.L. Drewett: Excavations at Heywoods, Barbados, and the economic basis

- of the Suazoid period in the Lesser Antilles, *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society* 59: 113-37.
- A. Herle, 1993. Shaman insights. *Museums Journal* Vol. 93 No. 12.
- A. Herle, 1994. Museums and Shamans: a cross-cultural collaboration. *Anthropology Today* 10,1.
- D.W. Phillipson, 1993. *African Archaeology*. 2nd revised edition. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- D.W. Phillipson, 1994. Africa (excluding Egypt) from the beginnings of food production up to about 5000 years ago. pp. 412-24 in S.J. De Laet (ed.) *UNESCO History of Humanity, vol. 1*. London: Routledge.
- D.W. Phillipson, 1994. The BIEA Aksum excavations. *Nyame Akuma*.
- D.W. Phillipson, 1994. The significance and symbolism of Aksumite stelae. *Cambridge Archaeological Journal* 4: 189-210.
- D.W. Phillipson, 1994. The 1993 Aksum excavations. *Proceedings of the Michigan Conference of Ethiopian Studies*.