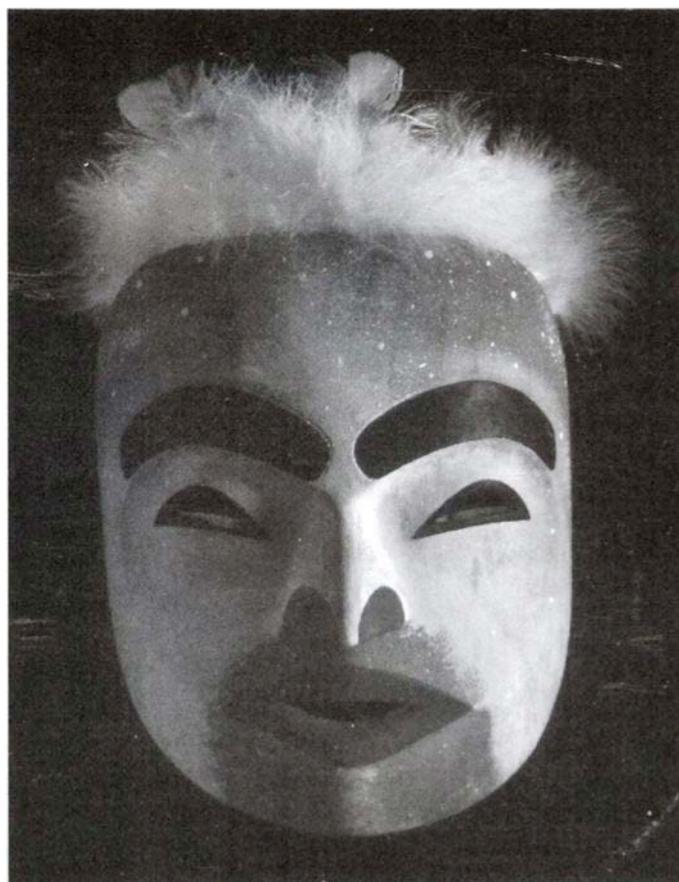




UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

MUSEUM OF  
ARCHAEOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY



ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1994-95

Canadian Northwest Coast Mask  
"Mother Earth looking at the Universe"  
carved in the Northern style by George Pennier (Coast Salish) in 1993  
41 cm. 1994.241

The Faculty Board of Archaeology and Anthropology presents to the University the 107th Annual Report of the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, for the academical year 1994-95.

### **Administration**

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

### **Staff**

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

*Director and Curator:*

D. W. Phillipson MA Ph.D FSA

*Senior Assistant Curator (archaeology):*

C.R. Chippindale BA Ph.D MIFA FSA

*Assistant Curator (anthropology):*

Ms A.C. Herle BA MPhil.

*Assistant Curator (archaeology):*

R.B. Boast BA MA Ph.D

*Administrative Secretary (part-time):*

Mrs S. Beales BA

*Secretary (part-time):*

Mrs J. Falkner

*Museum Assistant:*

J. Osbourn

*Attendant:*

B. Lewis

*Attendants (part-time):*

Mrs A. Came

E. Kirby

B. Green

F. E. Reeves

*Honorary Assistant Curator (American archaeology):*

Mrs M.H. Harris AB MA

*Honorary Keeper (organology):*

L.E.R. Picken MA Ph.D Sc.D FBA

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

The Board learned with great regret of the death in January of Dr G.I. Jones, who had served for many years as Honorary Keeper (Nigerian collections) and had assisted the Museum in numerous ways.

The Faculty Board made proposals, which were supported by the University's Joint Museums Committee, for redesignating the curatorial offices in the Museum. The only change which was approved by the General Board was that from "Curator" to "Director and Curator".

As in the past, the Museum has depended very heavily upon the services of numerous temporary employees and volunteers. Mrs Mary Hill Harris, Honorary Assistant Curator, 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**

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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 announced the result of its review of the Non-Formula Funding arrangements 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 review committee appears to have taken little account of the detailed submission which was prepared, and made no change in the existing arrangements.

The Museum has again been successful in attracting external funding for particular projects. The University made non-recurrent grants of £5,000 towards the cost of documentation, and £3,485 for completion of emergency work on the collections following the sudden rise in humidity, noted last year, in certain of the Museum's storage areas. Cambridgeshire County Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council each contributed £1,000 for the preparation of educational materials. A grant of £2,000 was awarded by the South Eastern Museums Service towards the cost of preparing the planned exhibition on African metalwork. As noted below, the Museums and Galleries

Commission contributed £1,000 to the purchase of an Australian painting. Allocations from the Museum's Crowther-Beynon Fund are listed in a later section of this report.

Cambridge City Council generously continued its grant in support of the public aspects of the Museum's work. The contribution for 1995, of £3,000, enabled the Museum once again significantly to extend its public opening hours for the peak visitor months from July to September, during the Long Vacation. By employing Ms A. Brown, Ms L. Falkner, Ms S. Mason and Ms C. Warrior as temporary attendants during the period 19 June to 15 September, it was possible to open the Museum from 10.00 am until 5.00 pm on weekdays. Increased visitor numbers reflect the success of this revised strategy. Once again it was possible to avoid gallery closures during the periods when attendant staff were on holiday. The City Council's recognition and support for the Museum are much appreciated.

Significant external funding has supported research activities undertaken by curatorial members of staff. Grants totalling over £115,000, including amounts awarded by the Society of Antiquaries of London, the British Academy and the British Museum, passed to the Museum through the British Institute in Eastern Africa to support excavation at Aksum in Ethiopia. The HEFCE-supported Virtual Teaching Collection received a further £147,000. Further details are provided under staff activities.

The Museum has continued to expand its own sources of income. Some £4,200 was received in the public donations boxes and from profits on sale of publications and provision of photographic services.

## **Exhibitions**

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The exhibition *Living Traditions: Continuity and Change, Past and Present* opened in February 1995. Drawing on the strengths of the Museum's own collections in both archaeology and anthropology, it focuses on several distinct areas and periods: Aboriginal Australia, the Swahili in eastern Africa, Concheros dancers in Mexico, Powwows in North America, the Haida of the Northwest Coast of Canada, Roman Britain, and Cambridge itself. A publication to accompany the exhibition, edited by Ms Herle and Dr Phillipson, appeared as a special issue of *Cambridge Anthropology*. The exhibition was co-ordinated by Ms Herle with sections prepared by all members of curatorial staff and the involvement of all assistant staff. Particular thanks are due to Ms A. McKeating who assisted with all aspects of the exhibition and the production of the associated book. Background research was contributed by Dr G. Crowther (Northwest Coast), Mrs Harris and Dr S. Rostas (Mexico), Dr S. Lucy and Ms E. Rietbergen (Roman Britain), Mr J. Perry (Cambridge Colleges) and Dr T. Raybould

(Powwows). Dr L. Tilbrook prepared the artwork and Mrs Came worked on the construction of banners. Computer design was assisted by Mr C. Gere with support from the Virtual Teaching Collection Project.

Two temporary exhibitions were installed in the Clarke Hall; and it is particularly pleasing to record that both were produced by graduate students of the Faculty. A display on Iron Age pits was opened in May, prepared by M.Phil. Archaeological Heritage Management students under the supervision of Dr Boast and Dr J.D. Hill. It challenges traditional interpretations of "rubbish pits" on British Iron Age settlements and draws attention to new evidence for careful ritual deposition. A display on his doctoral research at medieval Gao in Mali was prepared by Mr T. Insoil.

The Museum was fully involved with the major exhibition *University of Cambridge: Foundations for the Future*, held in January at Christie's, London, under the auspices of the Cambridge Foundation and the University Development Office.

## **Maintenance and development**

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### ***Buildings***

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Extensive minor repairs, modifications and redecorations were undertaken during the year in the Museum's Downing Street premises. These included substantial wiring and modification to the electrical supply in connection with computer network development, alterations to the Keyser Workroom to provide accommodation for the Virtual Teaching Collection Project, and installation of the Faculty Workshop in the new West Building. A new air conditioner was installed in the Photographic Archive, and major alterations were made to the heating system in the Faculty building. Strengthening and light-filtering film was applied to gallery and workroom windows on the ground and first floors of the Museum. Security arrangements were further enhanced.

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

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Dr Boast has initiated major developments in the Museum's information technology. As part of the University's Granta Backbone Network development, and with the aid of a special networking grant from the Council of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, the Museum was able to replace its AppleTalk network with a full Ethernet network. All Museum staff, including researchers, transcribers and those using the teaching rooms now have fast Ethernet access to the Internet.

After a series of access problems on the Central Unix System, and as a result of improvements in the network, the Museum made the decision to move its database development on to a Museum-based fileserver. Working with Claris Corporation, as a beta test-site for the new version of FileMaker Pro, the first version of the Museum's Catalogue is now up and running. This first version provides access to a catalogue file, a bibliography, a biography and object location record. Future versions will also hold a conservation file, movement control and the paper archive index. In the near future, the fileserver will also serve all application software and act as the Museum's World Wide Web server.

The Museum's catalogue system is designed for ease of use; and secure access allows for use by researchers and students as well as by Museum staff. Future developments will allow for access to selected catalogue data over the Internet.

Continued grant support has permitted the employment of Ms A. McKeating to work on the transcription of the anthropological catalogue. Over 6,000 new records have been added. The East Asian, Himalayan and South Asian transcription is now complete; and records from the Torres Strait Islands and the Sepik region of Papua New Guinea have been added to the database. Mrs Harris, with the assistance of a work-experience volunteer Ms F. Sutton, completed cataloguing the Moyne and Feachem collection from the Bay Islands, Honduras. She also completed computerisation of the Mexican archaeology catalogue.

Transcription of the last intransigent records and cleaning-up of anomalies and discrepancies within the archaeology side of the computer catalogue were completed, alongside its transfer from the old MUSCAT/Phoenix version to the new database. No large catalogue is ever wholly correct or wholly consistent. Experience with the archaeology catalogue in its present form assures curators it is in very good order, and the pursuit of anomalies and discrepancies is a slow business not productive to continue indefinitely.

Further checks were conducted on artefacts which may have been adversely effected by the rise in humidity noted in last year's report. During the course of this work, the South Asian section in the Babington Store was reorganised and metalwork in the Keyser Store was re-examined. Dr S. Guha, Mr T. Hoare and Mr T. Cadbury provided invaluable assistance during this work.

A non-recurrent grant made possible further essential conservation work on material adversely effected by the rise in humidity. Much of this work, as noted below, was undertaken in-house. In addition, approximately 50 pieces of metalwork, mainly from the Himalayan region, were treated for corrosion by Ms C. Honeycombe. A book containing specimens of *tapa* cloth collected

during the voyages of Captain J. Cook in the Pacific and a watercolour painting of Fiji by Miss C. Gordon Cumming were restored by Ms J Rowlands and Ms D Fandell.

Over the summer the Middle-Eastern and European ethnographic collections were reorganised. General work in the anthropology section has been possible with the voluntary assistance of Ms A. Brown, Ms S. Ferrari and Ms C. Warrior.

Nine new postcards were produced during the year.

The Museum Committee and Faculty Board reviewed their internal guidelines for considering any requests that might be received for the repatriation of artefacts to their country of origin. These guidelines will henceforth be reviewed every five years.

### *Meetings*

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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.

Ms Herle gave a gallery tour and talk associated with the *Living Traditions* exhibition for participants in a Churchill College Conference on Innovation. Receptions were held in the Museum in connection with the Conference of South Asian Archaeologists and the *Jomon to Star Carr* conference.

The museum hosted a gallery tour and workshop for participants in a weekend course on the South Pacific organised by the Board of Continuing Education, which included talks by Dr Chippindale and Ms Herle.

Through the Virtual Teaching Collection Project, the Museum, in conjunction with the Whipple Museum, King's College, AppleCentre Cambridge and Innovations Inc., hosted a *Maker's Forum* comprising four afternoon seminars in May on new multimedia developments. The sessions included presentations: by Oxford University Press of the *Electronic Oxford English Dictionary*; by Graham Howard of his and the Victoria and Albert Museum's Glass Gallery compact disc; of the BBC's interactive TV production group; and of the United States' Museum of the Holocaust's multimedia database.

Again through the VTC project, the Museum hosted a one-day round-table discussion on the *Rhetoric of the Screen*. The day was widely attended by academics from Cambridge, London and the Open University, as well as by representatives from the multimedia industry and the press.

A meeting of the University's Joint Museums Committee was held at the Museum, providing members with an opportunity to view current developments.

## **Workshop and Conservation Laboratory**

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Mr Smith and Mr Langford again devoted much time during the year to coordinating building works and reorganisation throughout the Faculty. Following the occupation of the new West Building, the Faculty Workshop was reinstated, funds being made available by the General Board and from the Faculty's own resources to permit the replacement of equipment which did not meet current standards of safety and efficiency. Delay in completing the Workshop installation disrupted preparation of the *Living Traditions* exhibition, but the necessary plinths, mounts and case-modifications were eventually completed, using pre-cut components. As usual, a number of storage boxes were assembled, and special ones made to receive oversized objects or items being transported on loan.

Detailed environmental monitoring was intensified in the Museum's stores and galleries. As noted elsewhere, improved air conditioning was installed in the Photographic Archive and Studio.

In the Conservation Laboratory, Mr Smith undertook work on 251 artefacts. Most of these required remedial treatment following exposure to increased humidity, as noted in other sections of this report. Additional conservation work was undertaken for the Museum by Ms C. Honeycombe (Conservator employed by Cambridgeshire County Council at the Fitzwilliam Museum and the County Archaeology Store) and by Ms J. Rowland and Ms D. Famdell.

## **Photographic Section**

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Mr Owen contributed significantly to the Museum's special exhibition and publications programmes, continued with the recording of new acquisitions, and met numerous external requests for photography of Museum specimens.

In the Photographic Archive, he has compiled a computerised database of negatives and transparencies relating to the artefact collections, and devoted much time to work aimed at improving environmental conditions in the Archive and other premises of the Faculty's photographic section.

Graphic panels for the *Living Traditions* exhibition in the Andrews Gallery were produced using new computer technology which should, in future, greatly facilitate the "in-house" generation of such materials.

Photography was undertaken for a new set of Museum postcards, noted above, for a publication of the Museum's collection of Andaman Island artefacts, and for a lecture on the Beck collection of beads. Thirty-six external clients were provided with Museum photographs. Assistance was provided for external researchers and students making use of the Photographic Archives.

Mr Owen completed an article on photography for Garland Press's *Encyclopedia of Archaeological Method and Theory*. Four of his photographs were included in an exhibition organised by Fuji and the Association of Historical and Fine Art Photographers; one was exhibited at the Association's annual conference at the Victoria and Albert Museum.

## **Loans**

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The following items were included in the University's *Foundations for the Future* exhibition at Christie's in January 1995: a selection of Palaeolithic artefacts from Mount Carmel; a Maori paddle (Z 17170), Canadian Northwest Coast figure (1921.567) and a Hawaiian bowl (1922.916) (all collected on the voyages of Captain James Cook); a Torres Strait mask (Z 9398); two Fijian clubs (Z 39431 and Z 2983); a Zande pot (1927.2263); a Sepik mask (1935.166); a Roman inscription (D 1970.5) from Risingham, Northumberland; and a selection of the University weights and measures normally displayed in the University Combination Room.

A Roman tombstone (1970.10) from Silchester was loaned to Reading Museum for long-term display.

An Oldowan stone artefact from Olduvai Gorge, Tanzania, was loaned to the Royal Academy of Arts for the *Africa: the Art of a Continent* exhibition opening in October 1995.

A Chinese-style dragon headdress from Brazil (1992.136) was lent to the Croydon Museum for a temporary exhibition which ran from October 1994 to April 1995.

Two Chinese gongs (1977.313-4) from the Picken Collection were loaned to Gonville and Caius College to be played under Dr Picken's supervision at the Memorial Service for Dr Joseph Needham.

## **Crowther-Beynon Fund**

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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:

C.M. Alexander: Embroidery and textiles in Turkey — £1000

C. Evans: Kohla Project, Nepal — £600

S.N. Groux: Manioc production in Columbia —£1000

M. Hill Harris: Barbados prehistoric pottery — £100

T.A. Insoll: Development of Medieval Gao, Mali —£750

A. McKeating: History of the Museum — £1550

J.P. Philp: Material Culture of Torres Strait islands — £1800

W.J.M. Sillar: Andean miniatures in play and ritual — £1000

J.M. Stargardt: Konbaung Buddhist statues as focus for worship in contemporary Burma — £500  
Archaeology Department: Exhibition and related activities on Kazakh horse domestication — £1500  
Museum: Research on the Roman collection from Great Chesterford — £1950  
Museum: Cataloguing — £9000  
Museum: Graduate Traineeship — £3000  
Museum — *Metal in Africa* special exhibition — £3000

## **Visitors**

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### *Research*

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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	1
American	7
Asian	15
Australian/Oceanian	15

#### **Archaeology**

British	23
European	8
African	13
American	7
Asian	8
Australian/Oceanian	4

Photographs & archives	22
Museology	7

Researchers came from the following places:

	Universities	Museums	Other
UK	32	12	22
Europe	7	2	3
Africa	—	2	3
America	9	7	6
Asia	2	4	3
Australasia/Oceania	9	8	—

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

### *Public*

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During the year under review, public visitors to the Museum totalled 16,452. This represents an increase of nearly 4% over the figure recorded in the previous year. Visitor figures were boosted by the extended opening hours during the summer.

The public specimen-identification service dealt with 64 enquiries.

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

In the early summer of 1995, the Museum participated in a joint Cambridge museums education project "MAGIC", involving most of the University Museums, the Folk Museum, and the Museum of Technology. The project was organised by Ms F. Sword, Education Officer at the Fitzwilliam Museum. The programme was organised around the theme of "Food for Thought: an exploration of food and bodies". The archaeology section of the Museum offered two programmes focusing on food production and associated technology. The anthropology section offered two programmes looking at the cross-cultural expression of identity through body decoration and artefacts.

The Museum ran four sessions a week for school parties throughout June and early July. The educational programming was developed and taught through the invaluable voluntary efforts of Dr J. Macintosh (archaeology) and Ms S. Scott (anthropology). It is hoped that the success of the joint education project will attract the necessary funding to enable museum education to be developed on a more permanent basis.

A special event for visually handicapped people, including a hands-on session, was organised and run by Ms Scott in October 1994.

## Acquisitions

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### Gifts\*

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- British School of Archaeology in Jerusalem: Flint sickle-blades (1994.24-29) and wood samples (1994.31) from Jericho
- Cambridgeshire County Council: Terracotta figurines and other items from a Romano-British child's burial at Arrington, Cambs. (1994.11-21)
- Dr G. Crowther: Carvings and textile, Canadian North-West Coast (1994.96-100, 241)\*
- Dr C. C. Haselgrove: Artefacts and samples from a mediaeval settlement excavated at Hardwick, Cambs. (1994.74-78)
- Dr R. Jacobi: Flint artefacts, Cambridge (1994.79-80)
- Professor A. Macfarlane and Ms S. Harrison (from the Chief Minister of Nagaland): Naga clothing, body ornaments, household utensils and weapons (1994. 207-233)
- Dr S. Rostas: Two Mexican concheros costumes and related items (1994.38-51, 297-298)\*
- Dr G. Salt: Uganda horn whistle (1994.188)
- Mr S. Simmonett: Neolithic flint arrowhead, Cambridge (1994.271)
- Dr H. Wardle: Various artefacts from Jamaica (1994.171-185)\*
- Mrs M. Woolley: Mediaeval cross pendant, Teversham, Cambs. (1994.272)
- In addition, a number of un-numbered specimens, both anthropological and archaeological, found during continued reorganisation of the collections, were formally registered. 1994 numbers were similarly allocated to a quantity of previously unregistered items which were returned from long-term loan to the now defunct Longsands Museum, St Neots.

### Purchases

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- An acrylic painting on canvas, "Bush Carrot and Two Women Dreaming" by Bessie Natamarra Sims and Paddy Japaljarri Sims, of Yuendumu, Australia, (1994.296) was purchased with the aid of a grant from the Museums and Galleries Commission's Victoria and Albert Purchase Fund.
- Bark and paper paintings, cloth, spears, clothing and bag, from Arnhemland, Australia (1994.234-240, 287-295, 299-300).
- Imbenge baskets, KwaZulu, South Africa (1994.186-187).

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

## **Teaching**

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All 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 M.Phil. level. Dr Phillipson lectured and supervised doctoral students in African archaeology; he also served as Director of Studies in Archaeology and Anthropology at Gonville and Caius College. Ms Herle continued as Director of Studies at Trinity Hall and, for the Department of Social Anthropology, as course co-ordinator and lecturer for the M.Phil. "Anthropology and Museums" option, and lecturer for the Prelim Paper "Anthropology, Communication and the Arts". As well as co-ordinating the M.Phil. paper on museums. Dr Boast gave undergraduate lectures on Early Bronze Age Britain.

## **Staff activities**

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The Director and 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. He was President of the British Institute in Eastern Africa. He delivered that Institute's annual lecture at the British Academy on his excavations at Aksum in Ethiopia, and also spoke to the Anglo-Ethiopian Society, the Sudan Archaeological Research Society at the British Museum, and at University College London and the African Studies Centre in Cambridge. He recorded several talks for the BBC World Service and for Radio France. He was appointed external examiner for taught postgraduate courses at the Department of Museum Studies at Leicester University, and examined doctoral dissertations for the Universities of Liverpool and Cambridge. He participated in the Pan African Prehistory Congress in Harare, Zimbabwe, and a conference on African cattle domestication at University College, London.

Dr Chippindale remained a Trustee and Treasurer of the Bead Study Trust and an associate of the Glen Black Laboratory, Indiana University. When in Australia, he was Visiting Fellow in the Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies of the Australian National University (both in Canberra and at the North Australia Research Unit in Darwin), and Visiting Fellow in the Department of Anthropology of the Northern Territory University, Darwin. He arranged a first meeting in London of PAAG, a Pacific-Australia Archaeology Group in Britain, and taught on Pacific matters for the University's Board of Continuing Education. He gave a variety of seminar papers and lectures in

Britain, North America and Australia to varied academic and non-academic audiences. He continued a member of one of the Society for American Archaeology's working committees and was appointed to another.

Ms Herle continued in her role as secretary of the Museums Ethnographers Group and assisted with organisation for the Annual General Meeting and conference in Oxford, and the Museums Ethnographers Group's special session at the annual conference of the Museums Association. In addition to numerous gallery talks, she gave lectures to graduate students in the Department of Art History at Essex University and for the Asian Art Programme at the School of Oriental and African Studies.

Dr. Boast has been appointed a Consultative Editor for *Multimedia, Teaching and the Social Sciences*, a new journal on the sociology of multimedia in education. He remains a member of the Governing Board of the Society of Museum Archaeologists and a consultant for English Heritage's Fenland Management Project. He was appointed as the Faculty's representative to the Council of the School for Humanities and Social Sciences Information Technology Advisory Committee. He lectured for the Society of Museum Archaeologists and at the University of Southampton.

### Research

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The Virtual Teaching Collection, under Dr Boast's direction, is on target to meet all of its deadlines and delivery targets. The second stage of the prototype (Version 2.6) is now being evaluated at Glasgow and Oxford Universities. Archaeology has completed over 1200 images, and History of Science more than 600. The project has started an Associates Programme where diverse users evaluate the software in a variety of other disciplines. To date, the programme has participants from fine arts, architecture, and museum studies, in institutions in Sweden and USA, as well as the UK.

The VTC project has also become a member of the Apple Developers Group and is now a development site for both Quicktime VR, a 3-D image system, and Open Doc, a flexible multimedia document system. As part of the project's leading role, it was invited as the only outside participant in Apple's Campus Briefing Day in Cambridge.

The VTC has also been involved in organising a number of workshops and seminars, noted above, as well as presenting papers at a number of conferences including the «Museums and the Internet» conference at the Science Museum, London, and the «Computer Applications in Archaeology» conference in Leiden.

The grant for the VTC (HEFCE) has allowed the Museum to employ Dr Lester Thomas (Systems Designer), Dr Samantha Lucy (Archaeological

Research Assistant), Dr Michael Wintroub (History of Science Research Assistant) and Mr Charles Gere (Designer).

Dr Boast is continuing his research on the Als Prehistoric Settlement Project, Denmark, and has started a collaboration with the University of Santiago on the developing prehistoric landscape of Galicia, Spain. He has been filming in Cranborne Chase, Dorset, and in County Mead and County Clare in Ireland in preparation for a multimedia project on prehistoric landscapes.

Dr Chippindale was in north Australia again for a field season, devoting his study leave in the Easter Term to the sixth and last full season of his field project on aspects of the region's rock art. The work on the beeswax figures had already been nearly completed, so the year's focus was on the region's old painted art, with exceptionally good results despite some frights during fieldwork. Attention now turns to further analysis and writing-up.

Mrs Harris spent ten days on Barbados, beginning research on pottery from the sites of Little Welches and Silver Sands. She presented papers on material from Hillcrest, Barbados, to a South American Archaeology conference in London and to the Sixteenth International Congress on Caribbean Archaeology in Terre-Basse, Guadeloupe.

Ms Herle met with staff at the National Museum of Anthropology in Mexico as part of her continuing research on the relationship between museums and indigenous peoples. She began research on a project to mark the centenary of the 1898 Cambridge Expedition to the Torres Strait. She compiled a preliminary survey of Torres Strait collections in the UK and conducted archival and collections research in Cambridge, the Pitt Rivers Museum, Oxford and the Museum fur Volkerkunde in Berlin.

Dr Phillipson directed the second season of his five-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. In 1994 further excavation was undertaken on Aksum's monumental tombs, and exploration begun in areas of domestic occupation. Investigations were also begun around the Old Cathedral which stands on the site of what is believed to have been the first Christian church in sub-Saharan Africa.

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